Jury trial of man accused of sex abuse of a minor begins. PAGE 2

'We are very honored by Haaland delegation's visit' PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

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18 graduate from 12th Cycle of Basic ARFF Academy

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eighteen cadets of the 12th Cycle Basic Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting graduated last Friday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe after four-and-a-half months of training.

The graduation ceremony was attended by Rota, Tinian, Saipan,

See GRADUATE on Page 4

LEIGH GASES
The 18 graduates of the 12th Cycle Basic Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting pose for a photo with officials from the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services last Friday after their graduation ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Magic 100.3 expects to be back on air soon

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After the copper wire theft that cut off local broadcasting for Magic 100.3 last Thursday, the radio station should be able to resume broadcasting in a week if everything goes smoothly, according to KWAW

See MAGIC on Page 4

PALACIOS ON FIGURING OUT ARPA SPENDING

'A six-month nightmare ahead'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palacios

Figuring out how the previous administration spent the CNMI's share of American Rescue Plan Act funds is potentially a six-month nightmare facing his administration, according to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios last Thursday.

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
67

Speaking at a press briefing last week, Palacios said that, as far as he is concerned, ARPA funding is a moving target, a double-edged sword, and a nightmare. He said a lot of the processes were buried into the government's previous Munis accounting system, which they are also having problems.

See NIGHTMARE on Page 4

Cyberattacks, Mawar prompt Guam conference

TUMON, Guam—Outside the hotel conference room in the U.S. territory of Guam, it looks like a normal tropical day. It does not appear that less than two months ago, Typhoon Mawar ravaged the island with 140-mph sustained winds.

See MAWAR on Page 4

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD
U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Christine Lizama, left, and U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jolina Cabe, both assigned to the Guam National Guard, attend a Cyber Conference in Guam, July 18, 2023. The conference aims to be the first in a series of collaborations to develop, implement, and sustain a unified cybersecurity plan for the U.S. territory in the Western Pacific.

INSIDE

BUSINESS
All Star Restaurant has launched not just a lunch buffet offering but also a dinner smorgasbord.
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NATION
Donald Trump seems to have a leg up in winning the delegates needed to clinch the GOP nomination.
PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE
"Barbenheimer" brings moviegoers back to the theaters in record numbers this weekend.
PAGE 15

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Local

Jury trial of man accused of sex abuse of a minor begins

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The jury trial of a man accused of inappropriately touching a minor began with a jury selection yesterday morning in Superior Court, followed in the afternoon with the opening statements of both the prosecutor and defense.

The defendant, Venitus "Vince" Ruwaath, has already pleaded not guilty to the charge of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

In his opening statements, Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds recalled the incident to the eight jurors, saying that the victim was 11 or 12 years old at the time of the incident in 2020 at Ruwaath's residence. That was when, as she was watching YouTube videos in bed, Ruwaath allegedly fondled the minor's breast. The victim said she did not know what was happening and did not tell anyone, but months later, Hinds said, the memory of the incident continued to linger, and the victim realized what had happened and how wrong it was for the defendant to touch her. Hinds said the victim will testify, along with the prosecution's other witnesses.

The first witness called to the stand was Department of Public Safety detective Shannon Dela Cruz, who described her the interview with the alleged victim. She was cross-examined by defense counsel Karie Comstock's co-counsel, Emily Thomsen.

In Comstock's opening statements, she said that the defense' witnesses are Ruwaath's wife, who will say they've been together for eight years and that they have six children together, and that the victim used to come over to their home regularly and treated them like family.

Comstock said that Ruwaath's wife will say that the victim never gave any indication that she was uncomfortable around Ruwaath and that she continued to visit them numerous times in the months after the victim reported she was molested.

The trial will continue today with more witnesses from both sides.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan is presiding over the case.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, the court found probable cause last June 10, 2022, to charge Ruwaath based on the testimony of a DPS detective. Ruwaath pleaded not guilty during his arraignment before presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja on June 13, 2022.

The complaint filed against Ruwaath stated that police received a walk-in complaint of a sexual abuse of a minor case on March 27, 2022, made by the victim's father.

During a forensic interview with the minor, the victim told authorities that the incident happened sometime in June 2020.

At a bail hearing last June 3, 2022, the court imposed a $20,000 cash bail on Ruwaath and remanded him to the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Babauta appoints Cruz, Magofna to 2 committees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To fill the vacant seats left by Sen. Dennis C. Mendiola (R-Rota), who resigned from these positions, Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) has appointed Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) as a member of the Judiciary, Government and Law Committee, and Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) as a member of the Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations Committee. Babauta chairs the two committees.

In her memorandum to Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) last Friday, Babauta said that Cruz's appointment to the JGL Committee is pending his acceptance, while Magofna has already expressed willingness to serve on the EAGI Committee.

Mendiola resigned from both committees last July 17 after noting that Tinian has no representation on the two committees. The other members of the committees are Sens. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

In his letter to Babauta, Mendiola said he is advocating for equal representation among the senatorial districts within the CNMI.

Last Wednesday, July 19, Babauta wrote a memorandum to Tinian Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian), informing King-Nabors that, should Cruz accept, she is appointing him to replace and fill the vacant seat left by Mendiola's resignation on the JGL Committee.

Babauta

Magofna

Cruz

She said she expressed her "unconditional sincerity" in a meeting with Cruz last April 10 to have Tinian lawmakers members participate in any of the EAGI or JGL committees' official meetings.

Babauta said the fact that DeLeon Guerrero, who is not a member of the two committees, has voluntarily participated in official committee meetings on numerous occasions, demonstrates this openness.

"This has been a custom and traditional practice since my days in the 22nd House of Representatives and I continue to extend that open practice with the 23rd NMI Senate," she said.

Since that April meeting with Cruz, Babauta said, none of the TLD members have expressed any concerns to her regarding their participation in committee meetings, nor have they participated in any of the EAGI or JGL committee meetings.

The senator vowed to continue to extend an open invitation to member of the TLD to participate in any official committee meetings conducted by the two committees.

She said the input from Tinian is of vital importance to the committees and, most especially the CNMI, should TLD members choose to participate.

CPA-DOD talks seek to advance NMI's economic growth, ports dev't

The Commonwealth Ports Authority recently engaged in productive discussions with key officials from the U.S. Department of Defense to advocate for the economic growth and development of the ports on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The meeting, held with Brendan Owens, assistant secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment; Dr. Kay Sullivan, director of the Readiness and Force Employment Division at the Office of the Secretary of Defense-Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation; and Ron Tickle, deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Real Property, focused on potential collaborative efforts to keep the CNMI's ports operating at full capacity and to advance mutually beneficial infrastructure projects.

Highlighting the improved relationship between CPA and DOD, the officials explored avenues to mitigate future airline rate increases, provide tuition assistance reimbursements for firemen receiving training from the Pacific Region Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Training Center, and to include the CNMI in the United States' Essential Air Service program, which provides federal assistance for interisland air travel.

At the meeting, CPA officials discussed the link between island prosperity, airline rates, and the CNMI's tourism industry. CPA emphasized the importance of bolstering the islands' economy by maintaining low airline rates to attract both tourists and additional airline operators. The officials also discussed the fact that CPA has not recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic and that financial assistance previously provided by the United States to address revenue shortfalls due to COVID-19 will be exhausted at the end of this calendar year.

CPA

Commonwealth Ports Authority officials led by CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio, leftmost, and CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, third from left, met last July 20, 2023, with key officials from the U.S. Department of Defense.

To help address this concern, CPA, among other things, raised the possibility of the United States waiving Airport Improvement Program Grant Assurance 27, which prohibits airport sponsors from charging government aircraft for using facilities developed with federal financial assistance.

CPA also advocated for tuition reimbursements for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting firemen. "By offering tuition reimbursements, firemen from airports throughout the region will be able to more easily access training opportunities at the Pacific Region Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Training Center here [on] Saipan. This will enhance the entire region's emergency response capabilities," said CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio.

Maintaining CPA operations emerged as the most immediate issue to be addressed. The officials discussed the potential impacts that limited CPA operations would have on future DOD trainings and activities, which heavily rely on the ports' functionality. CPA officials also emphasized that limited CPA operations will not only affect DOD's mission in the region, but it will also have a profound effect on the people of the CNMI in numerous ways, such as leading to a reduction in access to healthcare for residents living on Tinian and Rota.

CPA also continued its advocacy for the inclusion of the CNMI in the EAS program, emphasizing that both the CNMI and Guam should be granted exceptions from certain EAS eligibility requirements. CPA noted that these exceptions have been provided to other non-contiguous areas of the United States, such as Hawaii and Alaska.

CPA remains steadfast in its commitment to develop air and sea navigation to and from the CNMI to its fullest potential. The meeting with federal officials showcased a united effort to address the islands' economic challenges and enhance the partnership between CPA and the DOD. ***(PR)***

UOG welcomes 566 students from South Korea, Japan

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

The University of Guam welcomes international students as they begin the UOG English Adventure Program on June 26 on campus in Mangilao. Students in the study-abroad program will experience the UOG for two to four weeks.

The University of Guam's Global Learning and Engagement office is hosting this summer 566 students from South Korea and Japan through the English Adventure Program.

UOG welcomed 350 students from South Korea on July 3.

The English Adventure Program provides students from 23 UOG partner universities with a well-rounded experience that extends beyond textbooks.

"We are extremely excited to offer this study-abroad program to our students," said Carlos Taitano, director of UOG's Global Learning and Engagement office. "Our goal is to empower them to become global citizens who can navigate diverse environments, embrace cultural differences, and contribute positively to the world."

In two- or four-week sessions, the students immerse themselves in English classes and learn about Guam's culture through a combination of classroom learning, field trips, and other learning opportunities.

The students also have opportunities to interact and speak English with student volunteers from different UOG student organizations such as the International Friendship Club, UOG American Marketing Association, and the Triton Changemakers.

Preparations to welcome the students occurred while the university worked on recovering from Typhoon Mawar.

GLE worked closely with Mark Mendiola, Residence Halls director, and the UOG Facilities Management and Services team to ensure that the rooms and facilities were ready. Close to 60 students are staying at the UOG Residence Halls.

The English Adventure Program has provided an immersive English language learning experience for hundreds of international students across Asia each year over the past several years. Last year, 653 students participated in the study-abroad program at UOG.

For more information about the English Adventure Program: Visit: www.uog.edu/gle or call the UOG GLE office at 671-735-2600/1. ***(UOG)***

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
12860 Atchu St. (House#1352), Capitol Hill
P.O. 501000 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Division of Youth Services under the auspices of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be conducting its Public Hearings on the 2024 Social Services Consolidated Block Intended Use Plan (SSBG IUP) on the following:

ISLAND	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Tinian	July 20, 2023	5:00 p.m.	Tinian Youth Center
Rota	July 26, 2023	5:00 p.m.	Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall
Saipan	August 3, 2023	5:00 p.m.	Tanapag Youth Center

Electronic copy of the FY2024 SSBG Consolidated Block Grant Intended Use Plan may be viewed on the following sites:

DYS Website: www.dys.gov.mp
GOVERNOR'S Website: www.governor.gov.mp

For more information, or to retrieve a hard copy of the SSBS IUP, you may contact Kevin DLGuerrero or Ken Cruz at 670-237-1000/1/2 or via email at kdlguerrero@dys.gov.mp or kcruz@dys.gov.mp.

/s/ Vivian T. Sablan
DYS Administrator

/s/ Mary M.S. Sablan
DCCA Secretary

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 11925 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room, on Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (03/09/2023)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
  A. Welcoming of Member Board, Denn M. Manglona
  B. Upcoming NCEES Annual Business Meeting
VII. Director's Report
  A. Financial Report
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
  A. Notice of Certification for Adoption on Proposed Regulation for Real Estate Appraisal
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  A. New Application
  B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

MAWAR

From page 1

Thanks to the whole-of-community approach between local and federal governments and community partners, the visible scars to critical infrastructure appear to have healed. Power and water have been restored to nearly 100%, and roadways are clear. But not all the scars are immediately visible.

On the day of Typhoon Mawar's landfall, a multinational advisory and Microsoft announced a malicious computer code was discovered in telecommunications systems in Guam and elsewhere in the United States. The attacks were attributed to Volt Typhoon, a state-sponsored hacking group that carries out espionage and information gathering for the Chinese government.

Inside the hotel conference room, Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero gave opening remarks to an audience of over 100 stakeholders, at a gathering hosted by the Guam National Guard. Representatives of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, U.S. Cyber Command, the Cyber Infrastructure and Security Agency, FBI, FEMA, Guam Homeland Security and Office of Technology, and others, were present.

"Cybersecurity is one of the things that keeps me up at night," said Leon Guerrero. "Our communications went down during Typhoon Mawar, and it was frustrating trying to connect with frontline workers to find out what was going on. But this gives me relief in knowing we will have a comprehensive and unified cyber plan. As a whole-of-community, we need each other to make this happen to protect our island and nation."

MARK SCOTT/GUNG

U.S. Air Force Capt. Stephen Romans, assigned to U.S. Cyber Command, introduces the Persistent Cyber Training Environment (PCTE) to a cyber conference audience on Guam, July 18, 2023. PCTE is a simulation platform that allows teams of operators to configure, attack, and defend in a learning environment.

Led by Guam National Guard Lt. Col. Bumjin Park, chief information officer, the conference began with partner agencies briefing their individual capabilities and cyber postures. Later, breakout sessions afforded opportunities to analyze strengths and weaknesses, share best practices, and input to develop a charter.

"It's really exciting to see an event like this get so much participation," said Park. "We have so much to learn from each other, and all the cross-pollination I'm hearing from the breakout sessions tells me we are going in the right direction. Many agencies didn't know about certain programs offered by CISA, for example. So I think everyone is taking away something useful."

Among the crowd favorites was a presentation given by Capt. Stephen Romans of U.S. Cyber Command. Romans introduced the Persistent Cyber Training Environment, a simulation platform that allows teams operators to configure, attack, and defend in a learning environment. On Day 2 of the conference, stakeholders were allowed hands-on familiarization with PCTE.

Geoffrey Pease, integrated cyber planner with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, was a key enabler for the conference. Pease partnered with the Guam Guard, U.S. Cyber Command, and U. S. INDOPACOM stakeholders to bring everyone to the table.

"This event was a great opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness and strength of a whole-of-government approach, to train and fight together in terms of bringing increased cybersecurity capacity to Guam," said Pease. "Cyber is something that is here, and we all need to come together. We have to be aware there's a threat that's out there, and we have to be prepared to deal with that threat."

The Guam National Guard is planning to facilitate subsequent cyber events with expanded attendance from across the Northern Marianas, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau. ***(Guam National Guard Public Affairs)***

MARK SCOTT/GUNG

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, front center, meets with federal, military, and local cyber stakeholders during the first Cyber Resilience Event hosted by the Guam National Guard, Tumon, July 18, 2023. The conference aims to be the first in a series of collaborations to develop, implement, and sustain a unified cybersecurity plan for the U.S. territory in the Western Pacific.

NIGHTMARE

From page 1

The governor said the audit into ARPA expenditures that they requested would soon come out and will hopefully have answers to many questions. "What we did with it, how we did it, who did it? And those things, hopefully, would be identified," he said.

Palacios said if there are situations where individuals were either paid illegally or unlawfully, he is hoping that these individuals will be identified in the audit findings and either be prosecuted or whatever the prosecution decides to do.

"It's a longer process than six months," he said.

Nevertheless, Palacios said, he wants to commend some of the department heads who have diligently worked to look for funding for their offices to move away from their reliance on suddenly nonexistent ARPA funding that were promised by the previous administration. He said some of them have done this transition seamlessly, while others are still struggling.

Palacios also commends departments that are very aggressive in looking for funding from programs, services, and even infrastructure projects.

"There's a lot of funding opportunities out there. …That's why a lot of folks were able to attend that big workshop that Interior sponsored in Honolulu," he said.

Palacios said the Office of the Public Auditor has contracted an auditing firm to do the audit on the 2021 and 2022 ARPA expenditures. He said they have to comply with auditing requirements as it does impact the CNMI's ability and fiscal credibility when applying for federal funds.

"It's supposed to happen every year. Unfortunately, we are behind with it," the governor said.

MAGIC

From page 1

vice president of engineering, Danilo Ganacias.

In an interview with Ganacias last Friday at the radio station in San Jose, he said they are in the process of securing material to make the repairs and, if the process goes smoothly and the materials arrive on time, it would take about five to seven days to fix the damage.

"I'd like to apologize to our listeners and our sponsors for this unfortunate situation We are doing our best to get the station back on air so they can continue to enjoy the entertainment and be…updated on the news and the weather," Ganacias said.

About $6,000 worth of copper wires were stolen from the radio station's transmission site on Mt. Tapochao last Thursday.

It was Ganacias who discovered the break-in and assessed the damage.

He estimates the cost of repairing the cables, replacing the missing wires—plus the damage to the site itself—to cost about $10,000.

He hopes the thief or thieves will be caught, but also that lawmakers will create a law to deter theft of this kind.

"I'm almost sure that whoever stole the copper wire is going to sell it to…a scrapyard. So they [lawmakers] can maybe put up a law that…like…whoever's going to buy these stolen materials should get an ID of whoever's trying to sell it. Maybe that will help deter this kind of criminal activity," he said.

GRADUATE

From page 1

and Majuro fire chiefs, along with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Juan A. Pua, Commonwealth Ports Authority representatives, and friends and family of the graduates.

ARFF fire chief Frederick Pangelinan gave the welcoming remarks, CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro administered the oath of office for the cadets, then the graduates were pinned with badges and handed their certificates.

Awards were also given to the top cadets of the class. The valedictorian was Andrei Avendano-Woodruff; the salutatorian was Elton Hofschneider; and the physical fitness award went to Michael Mancao.

The Saipan graduates were Avendano-Woodruff, Hofschneider, Mancao, Joseph Muna Jr., and Blade Igitol. Two graduates—Jonathan Marifel and Dianoah Reyes—were from Tinian; five graduates were from Rota: Prudencio Manglona IV, Jorob Camacho, Joaquin Fujihira Jr., Alfernee Manglona, and Randall Manglona.

There were four graduates from Majuro, Marshall Islands: Samson Katadrik, Polson Laidran, Hertin Joel, and Lolin Joab; and two graduates were from Yap, Berman Tachibelmal and Jonathan Fetan.

Avendano-Woodruff, who later spoke, thanked the people in his life who helped him and supported him in his journey to becoming a firefighter. "At the end of that journey, I can see there's still so much more left to learn. Even with this award I've been given, I know there are people who know a lot more than I do—people who I'd like to learn from and catch up with and skills to build and experience the game. I think that goes for all of us in the 12th cycle. So, we won't stop here. We'll keep getting better and better. We'll keep having each other's backs. Whoever we need to save, whatever comes our way. Like we said, at the end of every day, big or small, extinguish all."

In ARFF Capt. Jesse Salas' closing remarks, he said to the new graduates, "It has been a long, long, long four months. From Day 1 of the academy, you quickly understood that the title of a firefighter had to be earned; it wasn't going to be easy. You all have been physically and mentally challenged with all the bookwork and smoke sessions we put you through to the point where giving up was almost an option. But you all pushed through, pushed forward, and overcame those challenges."

The graduates will now undergo ports police training as both Rota and Tinian ARFF firefighters are also ports police officers.

One of the academy's instructors, Edward Dela Cruz Jr., said the graduates went through Firefighter 1 and 2 certification, hazardous materials awareness and operation certification, as well as driver operators' course, airport firefighting certification, and emergency medical services through the American Red Cross as emergency medical responders.

"On behalf of my chiefs and our instructors, we are satisfied and happy to announce that these guys are equipped and certified to go back to their islands and provide aircraft rescue and emergency medical services to their islands…," said Dela Cruz.

38th ADA Brigade conducts Patriot missile live-fire in Palau

By MAJ. TREVOR WILD
38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

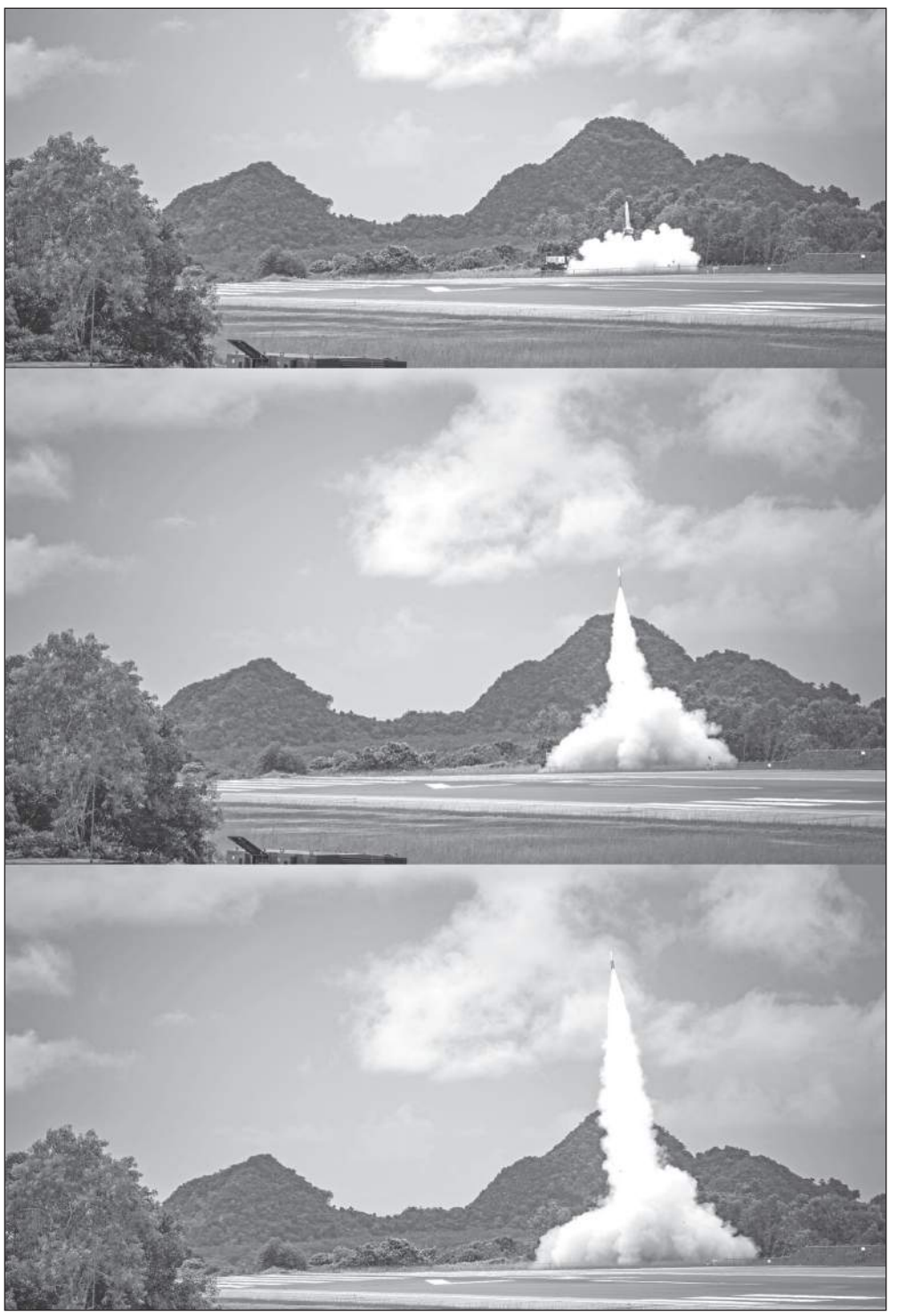
AIRAI, Palau—U.S. Army air defenders from 1-1 Air Defense Artillery Battalion, 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, deployed from Japan to the Republic of Palau to conduct a Patriot live-fire exercise at Roman Tmetuchl International Airport as part of Northern Edge Exercise 23-2 last July 17, 2023.

» 'Talon Lighting' exercise also held on Tinian, Rota, Yap

Alpha Battery, 1-1 ADA Battalion successfully engaged a cruise missile surrogate target with a MIM-104 Patriot surface-to-air missile designed to intercept long-range air threats such as missiles and aircraft. For a second year, the 38th ADA Brigade out of Japan deployed a Patriot Battery to Palau in order to exercise its combat capabilities. Leadership from the brigade worked closely with the Palau government to ensure the exercise was conducted safely by notifying locals through the U.S. Embassy and clearing the impact area of bystanders before engagement.

The Patriot live-fire in Palau is part of a more extensive brigade exercise called "Talon Lighting," which consist of a series of deployments throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, such as a 1-1 ADA Battalion Patriot launcher to Tinian; a Sentinel X-Band Radar and two Avenger air defense systems from Echo Battery, 6-52 Air Defense Artillery Battalion equipped with Stinger missiles to Yap; and to Rota, where E-3 Terminal High Altitude Area Defense Battery deployed a THAAD Remote Launch Kit to test their remote firing capabilities. The Talon Lighting exercise falls underneath the greater Pacific Air Force-led Northern Edge 23-2.

Northern Edge 23-2 is a multilateral exercise that enhances interoperability and cooperation and tests defensive readiness in the Indo-Pacific region.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SGT. ZABARR JONES

An image sequence of a MIM-104 Patriot missile engaging a drone target at Roman Tmetuchl International Airport, Palau last July 17, 2023. U.S. Army air defenders from 1-1 Air Defense Artillery Battalion, 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, deployed from Japan to the Republic of Palau to conduct a Patriot live-fire exercise at Roman Tmetuchl International Airport as part of Northern Edge 23-2.

UOG student joins research voyage mapping ocean floor

University of Guam student Gabriella Piper recently participated in a research voyage mapping an area of the ocean floor aboard the exploration vessel *Nautilus*.

An incoming junior majoring in communication, Piper was part of the first group of students and educators from the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Student Experiences Aboard Ships program to participate in research aboard the *Nautilus*. The National Science Foundation funds the STEMSEAS program which aim to provide undergraduate college students with research experience aboard research vessels.

The trip also gives Piper the experience of being on the 211-foot exploration vessel that is owned and run by the nonprofit Ocean Explorer Trust. The nonprofit's founder, Robert Ballard, is known for having discovered the *Titanic* shipwreck in 1985.

"When I first applied, I did not expect to get in because of how many people apply to this program every year, so getting the letter of acceptance felt like such a huge accomplishment," Piper said. She found out about the STEMSEAS program in 2022 as an undergraduate student researcher in the University of Guam's National Science Foundation's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. As a student researcher, she attended a science conference in Puerto Rico in October 2022. On the way to the event, she connected with a STEMSEAS alum and then later discussed the program with outreach representatives at the conference.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Gabriella Piper, a University of Guam communication major, is seen aboard the ocean research vessel *Nautilus* in June 2023. The ship set sail from Honolulu to British Columbia, Canada for a 10-day research journey.

"It is because of the [Student Research Experience Program] and the individuals within it that I was able to find this opportunity and learn about the different ways in which I can make a meaningful contribution to the STEM community," Piper said.

The *Nautilus* set sail from Honolulu to the Canadian province of British Columbia on June 15, 2023.

UOG Sea Grant biologist Leilani Sablan also participated in a research expedition aboard the *Nautilus* in 2022 under a different program that allowed her to log data at Kingman Reef and Palmyra Atoll within the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. ***(UOG)***

NMC SBDC to host free human resources workshop

Employers and human resources professionals looking to strengthen their knowledge in personnel and staff management are invited to attend a free training session hosted by the CNMI Small Business Development Center at the Northern Marianas College.

The seminar, which is done in part with the Society of Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter and the Pacific State Council, will offer employers guidance on how to manage the different aspects of human resources. It will cover a wide range of human resources-related topics, from employment issues to workplace regulations. It will also offer tools and resources for small businesses to deal with human resources in a more manageable manner by reducing the risk of violation. Other compliance topics include:

- Recruitment and Hiring
- Employee Classifications
- Timekeeping
- Record Keeping
- Payment of Wages

The free seminar will happen on Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023, from 2pm to 4pm at Rooms K1 and K2 at NMC's As Terlaje campus on Saipan.

To register for the event follow this link: https://marianas.ecenterdirect.com/events/1019124. Interested participants may also contact Adelpha Magofna at adelpha.magofna@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6888 to confirm participation.

The CNMI SBDC Network promotes a business-friendly economic infrastructure in the community, builds entrepreneurial capacity and financial literacy within that community, and provides current and nascent small businesses with the technical assistance, counseling, training, and support they need to innovate, adapt, and grow.

The CNMI SBDC Network is composed of the CNMI SBDC lead center on Saipan, the Rota SBDC, and Tinian SBDC. CNMI SBDC Network is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. SBA and NMC. ***(PR)***

Job Vacancy Announcement

Accountant

Salary Range: $16.19 to $16.19 / Hourly

Job Duties:
Prepare, examine, and analyze accounting records, financial statements, and other financial reports. Analyze business operations, costs, revenues, and financial commitments and obligations. Compute taxes and prepare tax returns, prepare CW1 petitions, ensuring compliance with all federal, state, and local tax and USCIS requirements. Report to the PRESIDENT regarding the finances of the company.

Requirements:
Must hold a Bachelor's degree in Accountancy with twenty-four (24) months of related working experience as an Accountant. Knowledge of CW1 processing and Knowledge of Accounting software.

Interested applicants can get applications at Queen's Restaurant Bldg. located at One Broadway Street, San Jose Village, Tinian, MP 96952 from Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or email resume to xuan-meihua@hotmail.com or call 6707832999 and look for Mr. Brian Hom for inquiry on job opening.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Graphic Designer (Saipan, MP)

Job Duties
- Provide drafting and design services by preparing and maintaining graphic drawings that compile to create a set of architectural plans;
- Prepare graphic designs from general instruction and preliminary sketches, diagrams, or schematics;
- Prepare drawings from conceptual plan to Development Plan and construction record drawings;
- Make sure of CAD to prepare engineering drawings consisting of plans, sections, and details from rough sketches to established standards and procedures;
- Ensure compliance with required design safety factors, tolerances, and specifications.

Requirements
- Associate's Degree or Equivalent; Major(s) and/or field(s) of study in Architecture/Architectural Studies/Eco-Friendly Architecture.
- At least 24 months of work experience as a graphic designer is required;

Please send a resume and transcript to
BE TO CORPORATION, Attn: Da Young CHUNG at P.O. Box 7670 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950.

Empowering healthy emotions for kids on Saipan

By LT. COL. KRISTIN PORTER
807th Medical Command Deployment SUPPORT

Members of the Innovative Readiness Training Operation Wellness CNMI Behavioral Health Team visited the Division of Youth Services Summer Youth Empowerment Camp on Saipan last July 16, 2023.

Marie Leightley, from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corpo.'s Community Guidance Center, presented the idea of the Behavioral Health Team to the camp coordinator.

"We had the opportunity presented to us…and since we've never had anyone from the military present at our camp, we jumped at the idea. [It was] something different for the kids," said Jennifer Tanaka, federal program coordinator IV for the Family and Youth Enhancement Program.

Maj. Caleb Ra, a clinical social worker with the 1835th Med. Det. (COSC) in Aurora, Co., Sgt. Tam Bui, a behavioral health technician with the 139th Med. Brigade in Independence, Mo., and Cpt. Phillip Lewis, a behavioral health provider with the 388 Multifunctional Medical Battalion in Hays, Ks., shared their military experiences with the children and focused a presentation on healthy emotions and relationship building. The group also did some craft projects before the end of the visit.

"The kids really enjoyed the presentation. A lot of sharing and questions were asked from the presenters," said Tanaka.

The camp was held at the Carolinian Affairs Office grounds for children ages 5-12. The camp is free and open to all children around the island of Saipan. The Division of Youth Services camp provides cultural arts and crafts activities, educational presentations, field trips, and physical fitness activities to children during summer break.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maj. Caleb Ra, a clinical social worker with the 1835th Med. Det. (COSC) in Aurora, Co., Sgt. Tam Bui, a behavioral health technician with the 139th Med. Brigade in Independence, Mo., and Cpt. Phillip Lewis, a behavioral health provider with the 388 Multifunctional Medical Battalion in Hays, Ks., shared their military experiences with the children and presented on healthy emotions and relationship building during IRT Operation Wellness CNMI on July 16, 2023.

New entrepreneurship training course for military spouses

The U.S. Small Business Administration has launched a new business training program tailored to military spouses titled "The Military Spouse Pathway to Business Program." The program supports the recent White House Executive Order 14100, which strengthens economic opportunity for military and Veteran spouses, caregivers, and survivors.

"The Biden-Harris Administration is working hard to create more economic opportunities for military families, backed by the recent release of the President's executive order and the first lady's Joining Forces initiative," said SBA administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman. "At the SBA, we are investing in our veterans and military families by creating pathways to entrepreneurial success to ensure they can be a part of the small business boom that has helped spur job creation and innovation across the nation. America's military spouses have served our country, and the SBA is ready to support them with customized programs and layered support resources so they can pursue their dreams of business ownership."

Military Spouse Pathway to Business classes will be hosted nationwide, in-person, and virtually, throughout the calendar year. Military spouses with a strong business idea or considering entrepreneurship are encouraged to sign up. Participants will learn key steps for evaluating business concepts and receive the foundational knowledge required to develop a business plan.

SBA district offices and SBA resource partners offer these courses, which empower our nation's talented military spouse entrepreneurs by providing the same counseling and training, access to capital, federal contracting, and disaster assistance available to service members and veterans.

"The course is designed similarly to SBA's Boots to Business and Boots to Business Reboot courses offered by the SBA but takes into account the unique experience of military spouses," said Timothy Green, acting associate administrator for the Office of Veterans Business Development. "Military spouses have been and are still encouraged to attend those programs; however, the Military Spouse Pathway to Business program gives military spouses a dedicated curriculum, peer group, and schedule that may be better suited for them."

This course introduces military spouses to a broad spectrum of entrepreneurial business concepts such as market research, economics, legal considerations, and finances. Each class will offer additional resources available to military spouses for accessing startup capital, receiving technical assistance, earning contracting opportunities, and more.

Military spouses interested in taking the course can sign up for an in-person or virtual class or reach out to their local Veterans Business Outreach Center or SBA District Office to obtain more information. To learn about SBA programs and resources for military spouses, visit www.sba.gov/milspouse. ***(SBA)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will be Board Committee Meetings on Friday, July 28, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

COMMITTEE AGENDAS

AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (March 16 and June 2, 2023)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
  1. Public-Private Partnership
IV. New Business:
  1. Concessions
  2. Amelia Earhart Monument
  3. Updated Airport Facilities Committee Report
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (March 16 and June 2, 2023)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
IV. New Business:
  1. Ports Police Citation Enforcement Policy
  2. Updated Seaport Facilities Committee Report
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (March 16 and June 2, 2023)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
  1. Drug Policy
  2. Supervisor Evaluation
  3. Desk Audit/Performance Audit
IV. New Business:
  1. Position Description – AOA Compliance Officer/Instructor
  2. Port Manager Contracts
  3. Updated Personnel Affairs Committee Report
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (March 16 and June 2, 2023)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
  1. Audit Corrective Action Update
IV. New Business:
  1. Supplemental Budget Request and Sanctioning – SIA ARFF Training Facility: Professional Services Amendment 5
  2. Supplemental Budget Request – SIA Taxiways A & G Emergency Repairs
  3. Supplemental Budget Request and Sanctioning – SIA Runway Rehabilitation Repackage: A&E and CM Services Amendment 7
  4. Updated Financial Affairs Committee Report
    a. Grants Report
    b. Internal Auditor Report
V. Executive Session
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom. Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, July 28, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes (March 16 and June 02, 2023)
II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
III. CORRESPONDENCES
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  1. Financial Affairs Committee (with Grants and Internal Auditor Reports)
  2. Airport Facilities Committee
  3. Seaport Facilities Committee
  4. Personnel Affairs Committee
V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
VI. OLD BUSINESS:
  1. Public-Private Partnership
  2. Drug Policy
  3. Supervisor Evaluation
  4. Desk Audit/Performance Audit
VII. NEW BUSINESS
  1. Concessions
  2. Amelia Earhart Monument
  3. Ports Police Citation Enforcement Policy
  4. Position Description – AOA Compliance Officer/Instructor
  5. Port Manager Contracts
  6. Supplemental Budget Request and Sanctioning: Saipan ARFF Training Facility: Professional Services Amendment 5
  7. Supplemental Budget Request: Saipan Taxiways A & G Emergency Repairs
  8. Supplemental Budget Request and Sanctioning: Saipan Runway Rehabilitation Repackage: A&E and CM Services Amendment 7
VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom.
Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland's delegation pose for a group photo with American Memorial Park employees after laying a wreath at the park last Friday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, center, assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor, extreme left, and deputy assistant to the President and Asian American and Pacific Islander senior liaison Erika L. Moritsugi pose for a group photo with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, second from left, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang before the start of their meeting in the Office of the Governor's conference room Friday morning.

'We are very honored by Haaland delegation's visit'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland met last Friday with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang during which they discussed, among other things, the CNMI's ongoing recovery from Typhoon Mawar, which hit the Marianas in May. Haaland also announced $1.14 million in Technical Assistance Program grant funds from the Office of Insular Affairs to support some projects in the CNMI.

The delegation's visit to Saipan kicks off a weeklong visit to the Pacific Islands.

Joining Haaland's delegation are assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor and deputy assistant to the President and Asian American and Pacific Islander senior liaison Erika L. Moritsugi, who joined last Friday's meeting to discuss the Mawar recovery and the importance of preserving the cultural history of the CNMI.

Haaland said they are honored to be in the CNMI and that, although the visit is a short one, they are going to make the most out of the time here.

Haaland said that Cantor, who is a former U.S. ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, has a very deep knowledge of the issues here.

"The United States is a Pacific country and so we're honored to be a partner in the success that these islands seek to enjoy," she said.

Haaland said they are also very proud of President Joe Biden's "Investing in America" agenda, which ensures that a lot of projects and work can move forward to benefit the people here.

Palacios said they are honored by the visit of Haaland, Cantor, and Moritsugi, who is a high-level staff from the White House for Asian Pacific Islanders.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor pose with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang after laying a wreath at the American Memorial Park last Friday.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, center, and assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor, right, check out the Court of Honor during a tour of the American Memorial Park last Friday.

Palacios said the visit would only be for 48 hours, but wish it were a week or two, but added that he is aware that they've very busy.

"…We welcome this opportunity and are very honored by your visit," he said.

Apatang added it's rare when the CNMI receives ranking visitors from Washington, D.C. "I think it's just the second time we have had a visitor from the Interior Department. And we really appreciate it and I hope you enjoy your stay here on the island," Apatang said.

He said their administration just came into office last January and they're looking forward to additional assistance. "We still need a lot of assistance. I'm very happy and our people appreciate that you made the time to come and see us here in the Commonwealth," Apatang said.

The meeting was closed to the media.

After the meeting, Haaland toured the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which has received funds from OIA.

She also visited natural and cultural resources across the island, including Bird Island and Kalabera Cave, which has also been a recipient of OIA funding support.

Haaland also honored American veterans by laying a wreath at the American Memorial Park Court of Honor.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland's delegation pose for a group photo with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang at the site near the Kalabera Caves, prior to a tour of the caves themselves last Friday.

Opinion

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Florida history lesson: Slavery as an unpaid internship?

Should American slavery be considered an unpaid internship of sorts? That's absurd and offensive, but it's not an outrageous question, given Florida classroom guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education. We wish we were kidding.

The guidelines of the new "African American History Strand" say that classroom instruction should include "how slaves developed skills which, in some instances, could be applied for their personal benefit."

It's just one phrase, but given the political climate in Florida, skeptics are closely monitoring every sentence, wondering why it's in the guidelines about teaching African American history and worrying how slavery's full story will be taught in Florida's classrooms. And they should. The GOP leadership of the state has brought such scrutiny upon itself, and the level of trust is low.

The guidelines also say that teachers' lessons should "examine the various duties and trades performed by slaves (e.g., agricultural work, painting, carpentry, tailoring, domestic service, blacksmithing, transportation)."

Fair enough. Some slaves did, in fact, perform trades and learn skills. But these guidelines de-emphasize the back-breaking, life-shortening fieldwork on the cotton, rice and sugar cane plantations as "agricultural work," just one of many "trades." In all cases, this was forced labor required of Black people who were enslaved. That should never be downplayed.

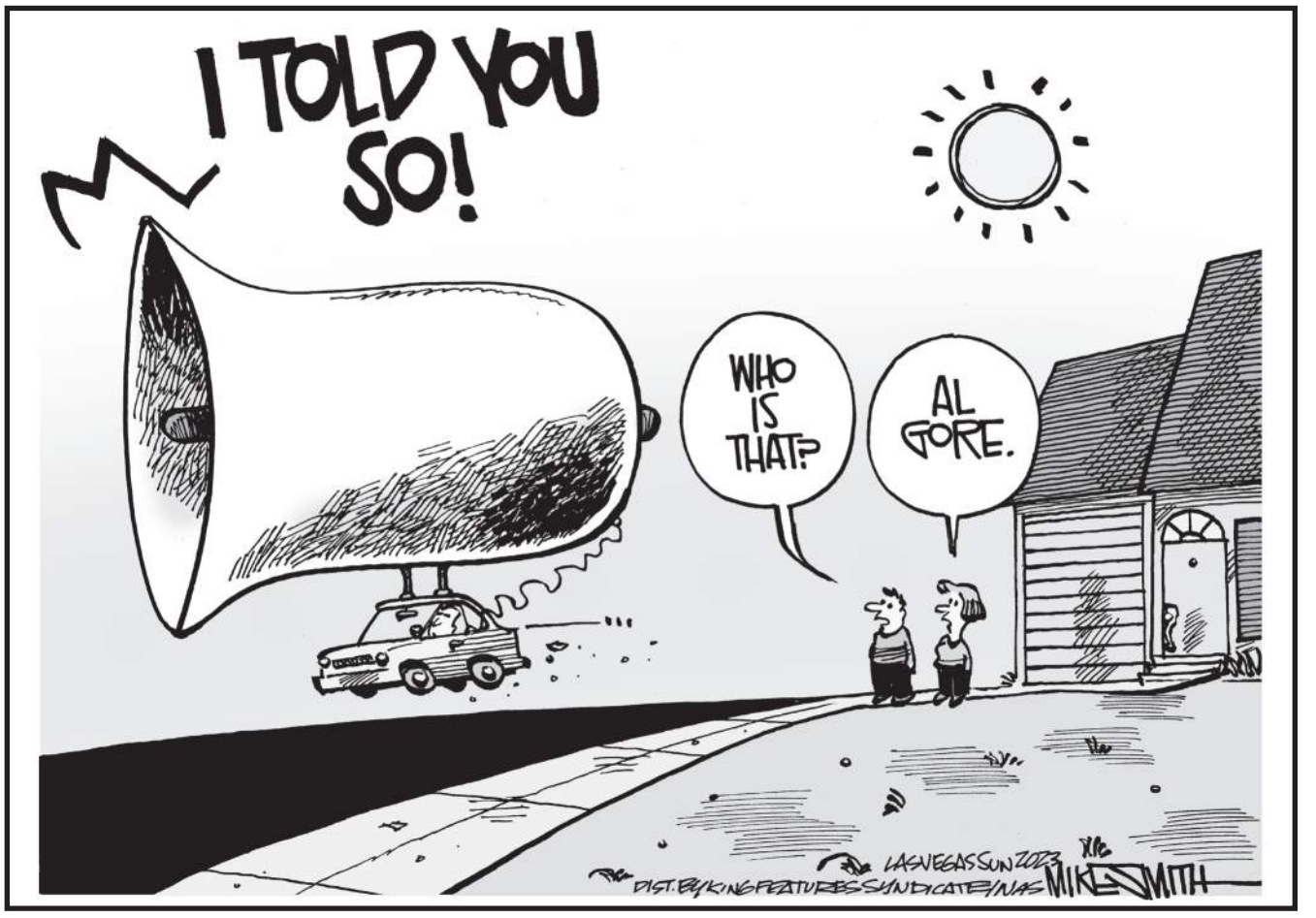
Trying to humanize slaves and showing school children that enslaved people had inner lives is important. But teaching students that enslaved people could acquire skills doesn't really do that or help students explore anything about their hopes, their dreams or their fears. In fact, teaching that their skills could sometimes be "applied for their personal benefit" rather misses the point. It runs the risk of making slavery seem somehow more benign than it was.

Yes, some slaves were skilled artisans who could earn wages and buy a few things of their own. But they never owned their own bodies. They belonged to the slave master.

Think of the enslaved Sam Williams, a skilled ironworker in Virginia in the mid-19th century. When he surpassed the iron production quota required of him by his owner, he earned money that he used to buy his wife a pair of buckskin gloves, a shawl, a silk handkerchief and other presents for his four daughters, his mother and father. A valued and skilled artisan, he still never learned to read and write. He was a family man with a full life. But a slave.

Much good can come of teaching details and nuances of slavery, such as Mr. Williams' story, discovered through ledgers kept by the iron forge where he worked. An accomplished teacher could bring a slave's humanity alive. Think of Frederick Douglass, who was 20 years a slave and nine years a fugitive until English friends raised $711.66 to buy his freedom in 1845 after he was already a famous orator, author and abolitionist. As a boy, he had seen bloody whippings of fellow slaves. He was taught to read by a woman who inherited him and had never owned a slave before. He became a strong man who helped to build sailing ships. When he had the chance to escape, he took it. Though he had learned skills as a slave that could be "applied for (his) personal benefit," the thing he wanted most was to be a free man.

See FLORIDA on Page 9



If you never got sick from COVID, thank your genes

By LISA JARVIS
Bloomberg Opinion

Lisa Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, she was executive editor of* Chemical & Engineering News.

Even as COVID has faded into the background for most of the public, our curiosity about the virus's idiosyncrasies hasn't waned. Why does one member of a household suffer a hacking cough but another not even a sniffle? Why does long COVID afflict some and not others? A cluster of new studies suggests some of the answers lie in our genes. What scientists are learning could help them develop better vaccines in the future—either for new variants of COVID-19 or entirely new forms of SARS.

Mild cases or asymptomatic infections have been relatively unstudied. Scientists' focus on the sickest patients wasn't just because of the urgency to save lives, but because it's simply easier to study people in a controlled setting like a hospital. Collecting DNA, sequencing it and then tracking healthy people out in the community is an impossibly tall order.

A team of researchers, led by the University of California, San Francisco's Jill Hollenbach, found a clever way of getting around that problem by tapping into a group of people who had already given up their DNA: bone marrow donors. The team invited donors to participate in an ongoing project at UCSF called the COVID-19 Citizen Science Study. Hollenbach's team recruited nearly 30,000 volunteers to download an app and, when they eventually tested positive for the virus, complete a questionnaire about their symptoms.

Although they've been collecting data from that cohort for years now, this study was limited to the time before people were vaccinated so the results could be cleanly interpreted, Hollenbach says. They were looking for differences in a group of genes called HLA (short for human leukocyte antigen) that carry the recipes for proteins that help our immune cells distinguish between our own biological detritus and unwelcome invaders. The proteins show little pieces of viruses to our T-cells, which take this as an invitation to attack. Because T-cells have a long memory, they swoop in again fast the next time a similar virus invades.

The researchers found that people who carried one copy of a version of a gene called HLA-B*15:01 were more than twice as likely to remain asymptomatic after being infected with COVID. And people who inherited two copies of the gene (one from each parent) were eight times more likely to never suffer symptoms.

Hollenbach's team found that this particular flavor of HLA is very good at recognizing garden variety coronaviruses, and the T-cells exposed to those were later very good at detecting important bits of SARS-CoV-2. In other words, people with this variant who also had, say, a common cold "have this kind of superpower" of managing their COVID infection to the point where they don't have symptoms, she explains.

"I think their findings are very exciting," says Jean-Laurent Casanova, a Rockefeller University scientist who studies the relationship between our genes and susceptibility to infectious diseases. "It suggests that T-cells are involved in the early phase of SARS-CoV-2 infection, and that a strong T-cell response can blunt infection and prevent clinical manifestations."

Another study, yet to be peer reviewed, offers genetic ties to the other end of the spectrum: when people suffer lingering symptoms. Researchers compared about 6,500 people with a long COVID diagnosis to nearly one million people without. People were 1.6 times more likely to develop long COVID if they had a variant in a gene called FOXP4. That same gene is also known to be a culprit in lung cancer and severe COVID.

While these studies help explain the wide range of responses to the virus, many questions remain unanswered. For example, why were some people not just asymptomatically infected, but never infected? Casanova is interested in, say, that "health care worker without a mask in 2020 that has repeatedly tested negative, negative, negative. They're seemingly resistant to infection and we think there's a genetic basis for that." His lab is currently analyzing some 2,000 genomes among that group to try to fish out the gene responsible.

Scientists would also like to understand if there are genes involved in other, rarer situations, like the people whose infections cause brain swelling, or others that get a form of heart inflammation called myocarditis after getting the mRNA vaccines.

Like all science, understanding the genetic link to susceptibility is just pulling on the first thread. So much other work needs to be done to unravel the rest. Hollenbach's findings about asymptomatic COVID, for example, should prompt more exploration into alternate approaches to vaccination. The existing vaccines all try to prevent infection altogether, but there could be merit in focusing on vaccines designed to take advantage of that memory T-cell response that seems to work so well for people with the right genetics. "Maybe you get infected, but manage it so quickly and effectively that you don't experience illness," she says.

It is important to keep unraveling these mysteries. They teach us about better ways to address this virus, which we know is here to stay, and also contribute to the broader understanding of how genes shape the immune response.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Fukushima water opposition is steeped in anti-science

By GEAROID REIDY
Bloomberg Opinion

Hong Kong is so opposed to Japan's plan to release treated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant that it's banning seafood products—from four of the country's landlocked prefectures. That sounds a bit off, yes?

Tochigi, Gunma, Nagano, and Saitama, which have a combined zero kilometers of coastline between them, are among the 10 regions whose aquatic produce will no longer be welcome in Hong Kong's restaurants once Japan proceeds with its aim to begin releasing the more than 1 million cubic meters of treated water into the ocean, possibly as early as next month.

Combined with the fact that right on Hong Kong's doorstep, nuclear plants in the Chinese province of Guangdong emit similar or higher levels of tritium (the main radioactive element that remains in the Fukushima wastewater after treatment), it's clear that science isn't leading this debate. It feels opportunistic at best.

The discussion has echoes of the alarmism that proliferated after the March 2011 disaster that led to the nuclear meltdown at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi plant. That has a real-world impact on the residents, farmers and fishermen still dealing both with the accident's aftermath and the stigma created by anti-nuclear opponents who exaggerate its dangers.

Hong Kong has joined mainland China in opposing the release of the water, acting according to one report as a "wolf warrior" for Beijing's campaign. It's not hard to understand where China's opposition stems from: It's an easy PR win against a country with whom it has a prickly relationship and an unfortunate history.

The Yangjiang Nuclear Power Station, located about 200 kilometers away from Hong Kong, emits more than five times the levels of tritium expected to be released from Fukushima's treated water. If the world wants to be serious about tackling carbon emissions, then the use of nuclear energy is a must. China knows this—it's planning to further boost its capacity to 400 gigawatts by 2060, more than seven times its current output, or about as much as the current total global fleet of reactors provides. Kudos, then, to South Korea. Having previously opposed the plans, the government has thrown its weight behind the release following the publication of an International Atomic Energy Agency report backing Japan's actions. President Yoon Suk Yeol, acting amid a historic thaw in relations between Seoul and Tokyo, backed the consensus view even amid public ire. Yoon is pro-nuclear, with South Korea also aiming to lift the source to one-third of its power generation capacity by 2030. The timing of a European Union decision to terminate its remaining import restrictions on Japanese food products imposed after the 2011 disaster also seems unlikely to be coincidental —and comes as a welcome vote of confidence.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. and the Japanese government should absolutely be held accountable. In particular Tepco, as the plant's operator is known, has much to do before it can be given the benefit of the doubt, even if the Japanese utility and its nuclear regulator have been hugely overhauled since the disaster. It was the myth of "absolute safety" in nuclear power that led to the accident occurring in the first place.

Local opposition to the plan is understandable: Residents have suffered both from the radiation release and from the stigma associated with it. Some had to move away for years, with many never to return. The international community should continue to monitor the water release (as indeed the IAEA intends to) and ensure it is being carried out according to plan.

But skepticism is one thing, and scaremongering another. It's hard to think that the welcoming treatment given to opponents of Japan's plan would be as generous or understanding if they were opposed to vaccines or gravitated heavily toward climate-change skepticism.

Just as discussions around vaccines currently threaten to do, our fear of radiation long since left the realm of the logical. "Is Japan downplaying the danger Fukushima water poses to human health?" reads one headline. "Anxiety and anger over Japan's nuclear waste water plan," says another, from an outlet that earlier this year was forced to apologize for not sufficiently pushing back against the claims of a vaccine skeptic during an interview on air.

As understandable as such concerns might be, we must stick to the facts. The release is "consistent with relevant international safety standards," concluded the IAEA, and "will have a negligible radiological impact on people and the environment." The science at question here is settled: Tritium poses very little risk to human health in the quantities being discussed, which will be lower than before the accident even occurred. It's why tritium is routinely released from nuclear plants as part of normal operations, including those much nearer Hong Kong. Given how little the public knows about this, or how nuclear power works in general, there seems a need for a comprehensive campaign to boost awareness.

For all the concern back in 2011, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation in 2015 concluded that the main effect on the Japanese public from the Fukushima disaster was on mental health. Presenting nuclear as a uniquely dangerous option, at a time when it has never been more important to combat climate change, only leaves us more dependent on burning coal and gas, as Japan has been forced to do to make up for its nuclear shortfall.

Amid the latest headlines about record-breaking heat, that seems as questionable a long-term strategy as "just asking questions" around established vaccine practices. The work to decommission Fukushima will take decades. Decarbonizing the grid will take even longer. There's little time to waste.

The joy of minor league baseball

By RICH LOWRY
(c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

The Portland Sea Dogs won, but that's not why, fundamentally, the fans went home happy.

The Double-A minor league affiliate of the Boston Red Sox, the Sea Dogs play in a cozy ballpark in Portland, Maine, and are having a pretty good year—their 2-1 victory over the Binghamton Rumble Ponies was their fourth in a row and they're in first place in the Northeast Division of the Eastern League.

I attended the Sunday afternoon ballgame during a summer stay in Maine, and I, too, went home satisfied, even though I have no rooting interest in the Sea Dogs, the Rumble Ponies, or any other Eastern League team, not even the Akron RubberDucks.

No, I was content to bask in the glow of minor league baseball, one of the glories of an American summer. The mascots loom large, the between-innings entertainment is amusingly inventive, the scores don't matter (much), and everything is geared to creating warm memories around the game that may not be the national pastime anymore, but still occupies an outsized place in the national consciousness.

At its best, minor league baseball combines the feel of a small-town parade and a meeting of the local Rotary Club, with nine innings of baseball interspersed.

The level of competition is, obviously, nothing like the majors; there's no Shohei Ohtani on the field. On the other side of the coin, there's usually no insane traffic and hassle, no highway-robbery prices (a hot dog at a Baltimore Orioles game costs $8.25), and no jerks cursing at the top of their lungs.

You can get general admission tickets for a Portland Sea Dog games for a whopping $11.

The allure of minor league baseball in the ordinary course of things isn't a high-stakes series against a bitter rival or a particular star. (The title of one book about the minors is "Where Nobody Knows Your Name.") Rather, it's the experience; everything is smaller scale and friendlier.

In Portland, the ballpark staff is so cheerful and solicitous you almost wouldn't be surprised if they invited you to come by their place for a clambake after the game.

On this afternoon, the team was honoring Special Olympians from Maine. A number of the athletes were part of a group that threw out first pitches, and one sang the national anthem, in a particularly heartfelt and moving rendition.

Meanwhile, the team's mascot, Slugger, who looks like a dog but is supposed to be a harbor seal, performed in skits between innings, including his tradition of losing a race with a kid around the bases. (His entry in the Mascot Hall of Fame puts his lifetime record in these races at 0-1,928.)

It all happens at Hadlock Field, considered one of the best of the minor league parks. It opened in 1994 but feels like more of a throwback. It is nestled among the city's streets, the way the classic major league ballparks once were. Railroad tracks run behind left field and an old brick exhibition center abuts the right-field line.

With a capacity of about 7,000, there isn't a bad seat in the place. Balls fouled back behind home plate routinely leave the facility entirely. In a homage to the Green Monster in Fenway Park, left field has a 37-foot-high green fence topped by a Citgo sign and giant Coke bottle.

On Sundays, the Sea Dogs let kids under age 16 run the bases after games. Given the number of families in attendance, it's tantamount to inviting half the ballpark to file onto the well-manicured field. Hundreds of kids make the circuit around first and to home—where just minutes before the professionals were playing—at top speed. Pure. Joy.

And, oh, yeah, Portland starting pitcher Isaac Coffey struck out nine, and catcher Nathan Hickey hit a two-run homer in the victory.

It's always one, two, three strikes, you're out, at the old ball game, but the minor leagues offer a particularly charming version of the timeless game.

FLORIDA

From Page 8

Widely considered the most photographed American of the 19th century, he never smiled in a portrait because he wanted to fight the popular myth of the "happy slave." That's why a single phrase is Florida's educational guidelines can be so fraught. Sensitively used, "personal benefit" might help build a more complex picture of an enslaved person's full life. But it could easily be seen as a ham-fisted attempt to minimize the horror of slavery.

The blowback against the new teaching standards has been fierce, including from the vice president of the United States. Supporters of the new guidelines are doubling-down in defense of them, which is exactly backward. They should instead be listening to the concerns and adapting to the legitimate worries of the critics. But this is the distrusting political and cultural climate in which we live. That's too bad.

The real truth and what should be emphasized is that slavery was an abomination that was beyond redemption. That people built their riches on the backs of people they literally owned.

Even the slaveholder Thomas Jefferson called slavery a "hideous blot" and "moral depravity." In an early draft of the Declaration of Independence, he blamed King George III for helping to perpetuate the transatlantic slave trade and wrote that in supporting slavery, the king "waged cruel war against nature itself." Today, we'd call that a crime against humanity. Jefferson, the country's third president, who fathered children with his own slave Sally Hemings, understood that slavery was an unalloyed, corrupting evil. Florida schoolchildren should, too.

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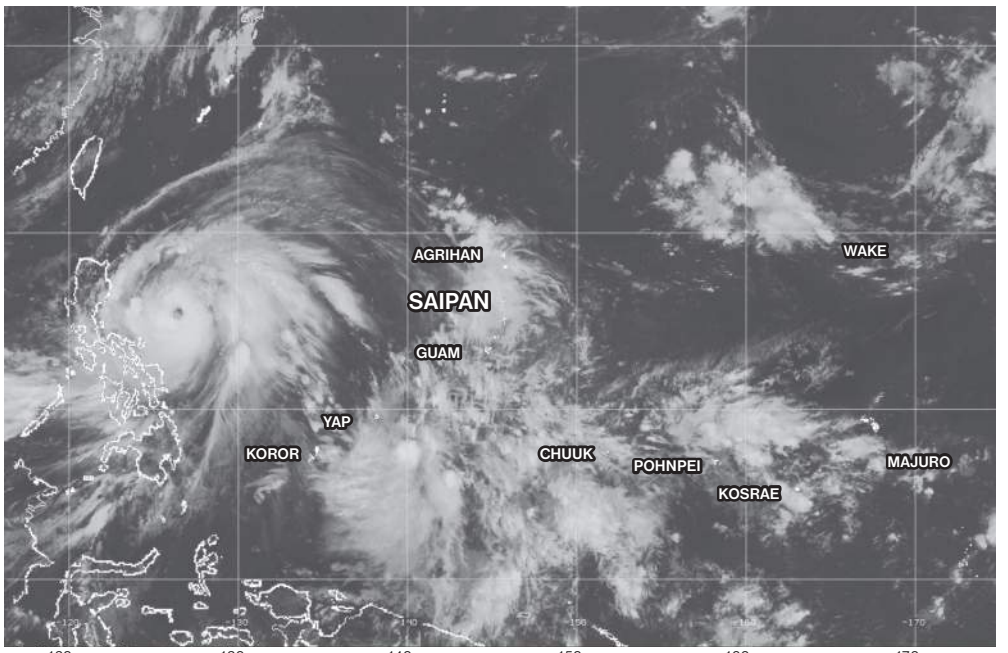
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
88° 80°	86° 79°	84° 79°	85° 80°	85° 80°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:46 AM, MONDAY, JULY 24, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly cloudy skies with radar indicating isolated showers. Ipan buoy shows combined seas of 3 to 4 feet, while altimetry shows 3 to 5 feet to the west. KBDI has increased to 339 and remains in moderate conditions.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	89° / 82°
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:38 AM	11:37 PM	-
Wednesday	12:28 PM	-	-
Thursday	-	12:16 AM	1:22 PM
Friday	-	12:59 AM	2:20 PM
Saturday	-	1:49 AM	3:22 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59° / 48°
Beijing	Thunderstorms	95° / 77°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	91° / 83°
Honolulu	Windy	88° / 77°
London	Showers	75° / 57°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	78° / 62°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 59°
Busan	Rain	79° / 73°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	88° / 66°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	94° / 75°
San Francisco	Sunny	62° / 54°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	90° / 73°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	82° / 75°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	91° / 77°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
12:23 AM	High Tide	1.96
7:07 AM	Low Tide	0.88
12:31 PM	High Tide	1.56
6:29 PM	Low Tide	0.89

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 19, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3467	3:00AM	7:10AM	Daily up to July 20
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:45AM	8:45AM	1, 5 July 17 to Aug 18
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7 from July 21

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3468	8:20PM	1:50AM+1	Daily up to July 19
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1	6, 4 July 23 to Aug 20
7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7 from July 20

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

All Star Restaurant enters competitive buffet race

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

All Star Restaurant along Middle Road in Garapan launched not only a lunch buffet offering but also a dinner smorgasbord last Saturday.

"For the convenience of customers, we provide a buffet, and the dishes of the buffet will be different every day, with unique flavors, fusion dishes, a combination of Chinese and western," the Chinese restaurant's management told *Saipan Tribune.*

The main menu for both eat-all-you-can promotions usually include fried chicken, crispy fish filets, deep-fried pork ribs, pot-packed pork, beef broccoli, fried shrimp with broccoli, twice-cooked pork, braised pork, sweet and sour pork, mapo tofu, garlic pork ribs, spicy shrimp, braised fish, fried fish, and fried spring rolls.

For appetizers, it offers French fries, fried steamed buns, shrimp and corn kernels, fried noodles, and fried rice noodles and for soups they have hot and sour soup as well as corn soup.

"Different dishes are served every day and it covers more than a dozen cuisines and staple food items. Plus, we're offering free iced tea, orange juice, and unlimited drinks!" added management.

All Star Restaurant's lunch buffet is set from 11am to 2pm, while the dinner buffet starts at 5:30pm with last call at 8:30pm.

Located next to Rainbow Hotel across from Pacific Quick Print, All Star Restaurant comfortably seats 70 customers. For more information or for reservations, call (670) 233-1343.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
All Star Restaurant is located next to Rainbow Hotel across from Pacific Quick Print.

All Star Restaurant's mapo tofu dish.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
All Star Restaurant's fried shrimp and siomai dishes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
All Star Restaurant's mapo tofu dish.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
All Star Restaurant's fried steamed buns

Musk says Twitter to change logo to 'X' from the bird

NEW YORK (AP)—Elon Musk said Sunday that he plans to change the logo of Twitter to an "X" from the famous blue bird, marking what would be the latest big change since he bought the social media platform for $44 billion last year.

In a series of posts on his Twitter account starting just after 12 a.m. ET, Twitter's owner said that he's looking to make the change worldwide as soon as Monday.

"And soon we shall bid adieu to the twitter brand and, gradually, all the birds," Musk wrote on his account.

The change isn't surprising given Musk's long history with the name "X," says Allen Adamson, co-founder of marketing consultancy Metaforce. The billionaire Tesla CEO tweeted last October that "buying Twitter is an accelerant to creating X, the everything app."

Musk's rocket company, Space Exploration Technologies Corp., is commonly known as SpaceX. And in 1999, Musk founded a startup called X.com, an online financial services company now known as PayPal.

"Not sure what subtle clues gave it way, but I like the letter X," Musk tweeted Sunday.

Hours later on Sunday, Linda Yaccarino, the longtime NBC Universal executive Musk appointed as Twitter CEO in May, weighed in on the move.

"It's an exceptionally rare thing – in life or in business – that you get a second chance to make another big impression," she wrote on her Twitter account. "Twitter made one massive impression and changed the way we communicate. Now, X will go further, transforming the global town square."

Yaccarino wrote on Twitter that X would be "the future state of unlimited interactivity – centered in audio, video, messaging, payments/banking – creating a global marketplace for ideas, goods, services, and opportunities."

But the change on Twitter was met with skepticism on the social media platform.

The change will be very confusing to a huge chunk of the Twitter's audience, which has been already souring on the social platform given a slew of other major changes Musk has made, Adamson said.

"They won't get it," he said. "It's a fitting end to a phenomenal unwinding of an iconic brand and business."

Earlier this month, Musk put new curfews on his digital town square, a move that met with sharp criticism it could drive away more advertisers and undermine its cultural influence as a trendsetter.

The higher tweet-viewing threshold is part of an $8-per-month subscription service that Musk rolled out earlier this year in an attempt to boost Twitter revenue. Revenue has dropped sharply since Musk took over the company and laid off roughly three-fourths of the workforce to slash costs and avoid bankruptcy.

Myanmar will issue highest denomination banknote

BANGKOK (AP)—The Central Bank of army-ruled Myanmar will issue a new banknote worth twice as much as the current highest denomination, state-run media reported Sunday, in a possible reaction to the economy becoming more unstable since the generals seized power in 2021.

The reason for issuing a higher denomination note of 20,000 kyats (about $9.50) was not explained.

Since the military ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, economic boycotts and sanctions imposed by Western nations have hurt both big businesses and ordinary people, many of whose lives have already been disrupted by civil war and the coronavirus pandemic.

The issuance of new, higher denomination currency is associated in popular belief with a risk of inflation, though there isn't necessarily a link. Older Myanmar residents are especially sensitive to changes affecting the currency, recalling the sudden demonetization of banknotes in 1987 during an earlier dictatorship, which reportedly affected around 80% of the money in circulation.

The action spurred discontent that contributed to a 1988 uprising against military rule that failed but also led to the birth of the Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party.

A report on state-run MRTV television said the 20,000-kyat notes will be issued in a limited number beginning July 31.

The state media reports said the new banknotes would be available only by exchanging damaged lower denomination notes with the same value at branches of the central bank in the capital Naypyitaw and the cities of Yangon and Mandalay.

The notes show an albino elephant on the front and two bridges, a symbol of infrastructure development, on the back. Albino elephants are usually dubbed white elephants, symbols of good luck in several Southeast Asian cultures.

The banknotes commemorate the first birthday of one such elephant and the construction of a giant Buddha statue in Naypyitaw.

Nation

How Trump is gaining advantage in nitty-gritty battle for delegates

NEW YORK (AP)—Set aside the polls, the fundraising numbers or Donald Trump's name recognition as metrics of his early dominance of the Republican presidential contest. He has what could prove to be the most important advantage in the race: a leg up in winning the delegates needed to clinch the GOP nomination.

While the delegate count won't begin taking shape until voting begins next January, Trump's edge in the race to win their votes is years in the making. Many state Republican parties made changes to their rules ahead of the 2020 election by adding more winner-take-all contests and requiring candidates to earn higher percentages of the vote to claim any delegates. Those changes all benefit a frontrunner, a position Trump has held despite his mounting legal peril, blame for his party's lackluster performance in the 2022 elections and the turbulent years of his presidency.

AP

Delegates watch as the roll call vote of states continues after Vice President Mike Pence spoke at the 2020 Republican National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., Aug. 24, 2020.

As Trump makes another run for the White House, he has been focused on the looming battle for delegates, according to people with knowledge of his effort who requested anonymity to discuss strategy. He's had regular discussion with state party chairs, many of whose leadership races he got involved in, and has hosted delegations from Republican parties in Nevada, Louisiana and Pennsylvania at his homes in Florida and New Jersey.

The moves are a sign of how Trump's team is focused on the crucial, if less glamorous, aspects of winning the GOP nomination. That's a notable change from his first bid for the White House in 2016, when his team of relatively novice operatives weren't familiar with the minutia of the delegate contest and sometimes found themselves outflanked by better-prepared rivals, particularly Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

That doesn't appear to be happening this time as election experts say it appears few other campaigns have been able to match Trump's yearslong work.

"They've been asleep at the switch," election lawyer Benjamin Ginsberg said.

More than 2,000 party activists, insiders and elected officials make up the pool of delegates who will cast votes at the Republican National Convention next summer to formally select a nominee. The rules governing how delegates are selected are determined by state parties, which have until October to submit their plans for next year's elections.

Many of the proposed changes that are starting to emerge in state parties appear to benefit the former president.

In Michigan, where the state GOP has become increasingly loyal to Trump, the party's leadership this year voted to change the state's longtime process of allocating all its presidential delegates based on an open primary election. Under a new plan widely expected to benefit Trump, 16 of the state's 55 delegates will be awarded based on the results of a Feb. 27 primary. The other 39 will be distributed four days later in closed-door caucus meetings of party activists.

Other Republican parties are looking to shift away from primary elections toward party-run caucuses, where Trump's support among the party's grassroots activists could put his rivals at a disadvantage.

In Idaho, one of the country's most Republican states, a new law passed by the state legislature earlier this year eliminated the presidential primary process by moving the state elections to May as lawmakers tried to consolidate the voting calendar. The party's state central committee decided last month to instead hold caucuses on March 2.

In Nevada, the state Republican Party is mounting a legal battle to try to hold a party-run caucus instead of a state-run primary election. The party chair, Michael McDonald, said he had spoken with Trump's team about the process and ongoing lawsuit but had not heard from the campaign of his strongest rival, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Texas using disaster declarations to install buoys, razor wires on the US-Mexico border

EAGLE PASS, Texas (AP)—Wrecking ball-sized buoys on the Rio Grande. Razor wire strung across private property without permission. Bulldozers changing the very terrain of America's southern border.

For more than two years, Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has escalated measures to keep migrants from entering the U.S., pushing legal boundaries with a go-it-alone bravado along the state's 1,200-mile (1,930-kilometer) border with Mexico. Now blowback over the tactics is widening, including from within Texas.

A state trooper's account of officers denying migrants water in 100-degree Fahrenheit (37.7 Celsius) temperatures and razor wire leaving asylum-seekers bloodied has prompted renewed criticism. The Mexican government, the Biden administration and some residents are pushing back.

Abbott, who cruised to a third term in November while promising tougher border crackdowns, has used disaster declarations as the legal bedrock for some measures.

Critics call that a warped view.

"There are so many ways that what Texas is doing right now is just flagrantly illegal," said David Donatti, an attorney for the Texas American Civil Liberties Union.

Abbott did not respond to requests for comment. He has repeatedly attacked President Joe Biden's border policies, tweeting Friday that they "encourage migrants to risk their lives crossing illegally through the Rio Grande, instead of safely and legally over a bridge."

The Biden administration said illegal border crossings have declined significantly since new immigration rules took effect in May.

ALTERED BORDER

Under the international bridge connecting Eagle Pass, Texas, with Piedras Negras, Mexico, protesters gathered at Shelby Park this month, chanting "save the river" and blowing a conch shell in a ceremony. A few yards away, crews unloaded neon-orange buoys from trailers parked by a boat ramp off the Rio Grande.

Jessie Fuentes stood with the environmental advocates, watching as state troopers restricted access to the water where he holds an annual kayak race. Shipping containers and layers of concertina wire lined the riverbank.

The experienced kayaker often took clients and race participants into the water through a shallow channel formed by a border island covered in verdant brush. That has been replaced by a bulldozed stretch of barren land connected to the mainland and fortified with razor wire.

"The river is a federally protected river by so many federal agencies, and I just don't know how it happened," Fuentes told the Eagle Pass City Council the night before.

Neither did the city council.

"I feel like the state government has kind of bypassed local government in a lot of different ways. And so I felt powerless at times," council member Elias Diaz told The Associated Press.

The International Boundary of Water Commission says it was not notified when Texas modified several islands or deployed the massive buoys to create a barrier covering 1,000 feet (305 meters) of the middle of the Rio Grande, with anchors in the riverbed.

Jill Biden heads to Paris to help mark the US' return to UN educational and scientific agency

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jill Biden has represented her country at the Olympics in Tokyo, a king's coronation in London and a royal wedding in Jordan. She gets another chance to put her ambassadorial skills to work this week when the United States formally rejoins a United Nations agency devoted to education, science and culture around the globe.

Biden was arriving in Paris early Monday after flying overnight from Washington to join other VIPs and speak at a ceremony Tuesday at the headquarters of the United Nations Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization. The American flag will be raised to mark the U.S. return to membership after a five-year absence.

UNESCO aims to foster global collaboration in education, science and culture. It also designates World Heritage sites, deeming them worthy of eternal preservation.

The agency on Sunday condemned Russia's attack on a cathedral in Odesa and other heritage sites in Ukraine in recent days and said it will send a team to the Black Sea port city to assess damage.

In a statement, UNESCO noted that Odesa's historic center was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site earlier this year and said attacks by Russian forces contradict recent promises by Russian authorities to take precautions to spare such sites across the country.

Before returning to Washington on Wednesday, Biden will tour a historic venue in France, Mont-Saint-Michel, a 1,000-year-old Benedictine abbey that was listed as a World Heritage site in 1979. It sits on an island in Normandy, in the north of the country.

A daughter and mother of U.S. service members, the first lady will also visit Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial to pay respects to the more than 4,400 U.S. service members buried there, most of whom died in Normandy and Brittany during World War II.

She will also stop at the Elysée Palace in Paris on Tuesday to catch up with Brigitte Macron, a former teacher and the wife of French President Emmanuel Macron. The women have met several times over the past two years, including in Washington last December when Macron was on a state visit to the U.S.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Fire still blazing on Rhodes as dozens more erupt across Greece

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Firefighters struggled through the night to contain 82 wildfires across Greece, 64 of which started Sunday, the hottest day of the summer so far. Their efforts were without the help of firefighting planes and helicopters, which do not operate at night. The most serious fire was on the island of Rhodes. Some 19,000 people had been evacuated from several locations on the island as wildfires burned for a sixth day, Greek authorities said. No further evacuations had been ordered as of Sunday night. The Ministry of Climate Change and Civil Protection said it was "the largest evacuation from a wildfire in the country." Local police said 16,000 people were evacuated by land and 3,000 by sea from 12 villages and several hotels. Six people were briefly treated at a hospital for respiratory problems. A person who fell and broke a leg during a hotel evacuation and a pregnant woman remained hospitalized, the latter in good condition, authorities said.

27 dead recovered in India; no sign of dozens of missing due to landslide

NEW DELHI (AP)—Hundreds of rescuers ended a four-day search for scores of people still missing after heavy monsoon rains triggered a massive landslide in a village in western India, an official said Sunday. The rescue teams recovered the bodies of 27 people killed in the Wednesday night landslide that hit the Raigadh district village of Irshalwadi, located nearly 80 kilometers (50 miles) from Mumbai, the Maharashtra state capital. Seventy-eight people were thought to be missing as of Sunday, Deepak Avadh, an official of the National Disaster Response Force, said. The state government and the relief agency later decided to end the search operations, Avadh said, implying there was no hope of finding any survivors. No more bodies were recovered Sunday, he said.

Indonesian ferry capsizes leaving at least 15 people dead

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—An overloaded ferry capsized off Indonesia's Sulawesi island, killing at least 15 people and leaving 19 others missing, rescuers said Monday. The boat was traveling from Lanto village in Buton Central regency in Southeast Sulawesi province to nearby Lagii village when it capsized just after midnight on Monday, Buton's search and rescue agency head Muhammad Arafah said. The wooden boat was carrying 40 people but was designed for just 20. Rescuers were searching Monday for 19 people who were still missing in rough seas, while 15 bodies had been recovered and six people were rescued, Arafah said. Three rubber boats, two fishing boats and six divers were deployed to search for the missing people, he said. Thousands of residents had traveled to their villages to celebrate the regency's 9th anniversary on Sunday, and many people were transported by fishing or passenger boats.

Russian strike on Odesa badly damages Orthodox cathedral

ODESA, Ukraine (AP)—Russia struck the Ukrainian Black Sea city of Odesa on Sunday, keeping up a barrage of attacks that has damaged critical port infrastructure in southern Ukraine in the past week. At least one person was killed and 22 others wounded in the early morning attack, officials said.

Four children were among those wounded in the blasts, which severely damaged 25 landmarks across the city, including the historic Transfiguration Cathedral.

Russia has been launching repeated attacks on Odesa, a key hub for exporting grain, since Moscow canceled a landmark grain deal on Monday amid Kyiv's grinding efforts to retake its occupied territories.

After the fires were put out at the Orthodox cathedral, volunteers donned hard hats, shovels and brooms to begin removing rubble and try to salvage any artifacts — under the watchful gaze of the saints whose paintings remained intact. Local officials said the icon of the patroness of the city was retrieved from under the rubble.

"The destruction is enormous, half of the cathedral is now roofless," said Archdeacon Andrii Palchuk, as workers brought documents and valuables out of the building, its floor inundated with water used by firefighters to extinguish the blaze.

Palchuk said the damage was caused by a direct hit from a Russian missile that penetrated the building down to the basement. Two people inside were wounded.

"But with God's help, we will restore it," he said, bursting into tears.

A woman who came to help with the cleanup said she loved the cathedral "for its tranquility and grace."

"When you enter this church, you feel like you're beyond the world," said Liudmyla, who gave only her first name. "I have a feeling that God, to protect apartments, took this pain, this explosion upon himself."

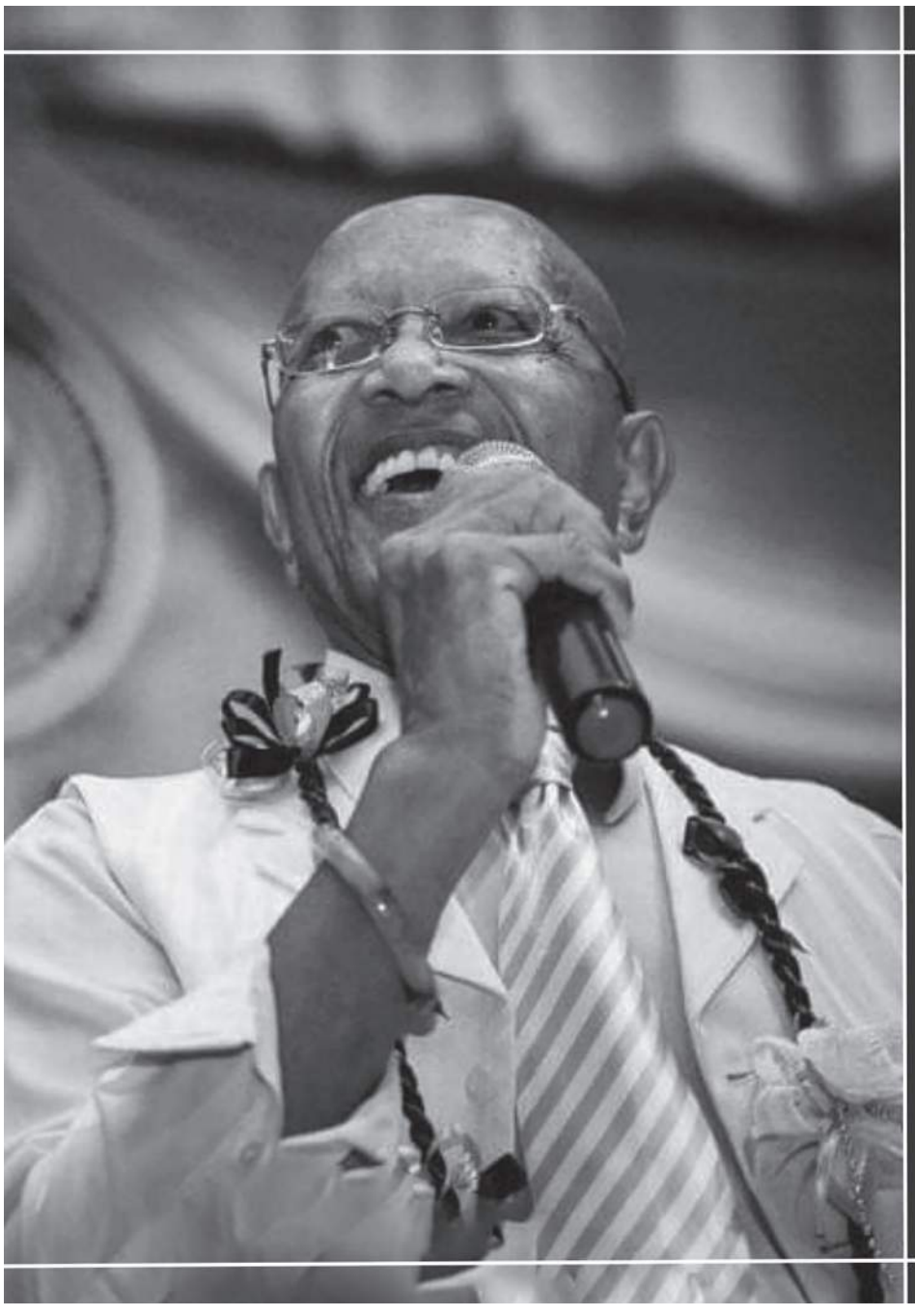
Anna Fetchenko, who came to Odesa for a volunteer meeting, also pitched in to clear the debris. "I wanted to go to the seaside, but last night was so frightening that I cried for the first time in 2023," she said.

"This is our Ukrainian heritage, and now it's taken away from us."

Later Sunday, Palchuk urged people to gather in front of the destroyed part of the cathedral for an outdoor service and to pray in front of a sacred icon that "miraculously survived."

"We will pray that it protects us from the Russians," he said.

The cathedral belongs to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which has been accused of links to Russia. The church has insisted that it is loyal to Ukraine, has denounced the Russian invasion from the start and even declared its independence from Moscow.



IN KIND AND LOVING MEMORY

Dr. John Berneser Joyner

Ageless Body, Timeless Mind

John B. Joyner died peacefully on July 18, 2023.

John is survived by his wife, **Yasuko Joyner,** children: **Breshaun, Jawn, Jön, Jian, and Jehn Joyner,** and sister, **Ramona Horton.**

John now rests in peace with his parents, **Ernest Berneser Joyner and Florence Currie Joyner,** and siblings **Elsie and Ernest Jr**.

The Joyner family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to:

Saipan Community Church, Northern Marianas International School, Kagman Isla Community Health Center, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Marianas Visiting Nurses, Healthcare Specialties, Borja Funeral Home, Kagman Fire Station, Island Touch by Philip, and Bostonian Bakery.

Last Respects may be offered beginning at 9:00 am on Saturday, July 29, 2023 followed by a Memorial Service at 10:30 am at Saipan Community Church.

Overdrive

2023 Nissan Ariya crossover brings turntable styling to all-electric driving

By CASEY WILLIAMS
Tribune News Service

My favorite magazines as a kid were Car and Driver issues from the late 1980s with all of the glossy concept cars. The 1986 Buick Wildcat, 1986 Pontiac Trans Sport and 1988 Pontiac Banshee had the sleekest next-century style. The Wildcat even flashed a flatscreen instrument cluster while the Trans Sport ported a laptop in its dash. They prefigured today's rides, but none fully match the 2023 Nissan Ariya electric crossover.

Nissan's bomb EV wears its turntable style with pride. I wish you could have seen my neighbors' faces and cranked necks as I glided this fantasy into the driveway, lifted the garage door and plugged in.

I find it beautiful. Where a grille would normally be is a black panel adorned with the new Nissan badge, illuminated by 20 LEDs and flanked by angry headlamps. The fluid design embraces the Japanese term iki, which implies cutting-edge nature. I'll take that to mean it looks to be shaped by water and microchips. It's especially fetching set over 19-inch slicer alloy wheels.

Interiors embrace ma, or a belonging to both space and time. Designers aimed for the feel of a starship lounge that GM only wished for 35 years ago. The minimalist space with curved twin flatscreens benefits from a wide flat floor and center console that powers back and forth. There's no transmission tunnel, so legroom is abundant. A panoramic moonroof, crisp 10-speaker Bose audio and heated steering wheel add filthy luxury.

JAY MCNALLY

The 2023 Nissan Ariya.

Especially during stressful days, I couldn't wait to enter the Ariya's tranquil space. Details delineate. Take a close look at the wood panel across the dash. It's not wood, and climate controls are flush integrated to the panel with capacitive haptic switches. It's like changing temperature by clicking your finger on thin timber. I doubted I'd like the bluish-gray color of the Nappa leather seats against red paint, but they feel light and are heated/ventilated up front. Wireless phone charging keeps phones humming while a head-up display for speed, navigation, and safety systems focus eyes forward.

GM formed its aerodynamic concepts to excite drivers and improve fuel economy, but Nissan employs its next-decade vibe to enhance driving range. Our vehicle's 87 kWh lithium-ion battery pack delivers 267 miles, but also lays down a vigorous 389 horsepower and 442 pound-feet of torque through the all-wheel-drive system. Skip the more spirited Sport mode and leave it in Eco for the best economy. Also depress the e-Step button for more aggressive regenerative braking. Recharging 10%-80% on a fast charger takes 40 minutes—longer than competitors—and expect a 14-hour recharge on a 240v home or commercial charger. Monitor it all via the phone app and Apple Watch.

LIKES
- Turntable style
- Rapid acceleration
- Interior delights

DISLIKES
- Firm suspension
- Long charging
- Lofty price

I get a good laugh out of movies like "Demolition Man," where GM's Ultralite concept is supposedly run over by classic American muscle cars like the 1970 Oldsmobile 442. That's adorable. The high-performance 442 W30 harbored a 7.5-liter (455 cubic-inch) V-8 delivering 370 horsepower and 500 pound-feet of torque. Unholy power for the time, but it all reached for pavement through skinny rear tires, which meant 0-60 mph in 7 seconds. The Ariya, with all-wheel-drive and near 50/50 weight distribution, runs 0-60 in 4.8 seconds. After defending its honor, the Ariya is perfectly happy to load bicycles through its hands-free hatch, drop kids at piano lessons, or carry the entire family to dinner … without an ounce of petrol.

Driving further into the future, our car was equipped with Nissan's ProPILOT Assist 2 system that allows for hands-off cruising on designated highways. It's not as smooth as some competitors, chopping its way around curves, and it performed an upgrade in the middle of my trip, but it was a nice addition to the adaptive cruise control for a relaxed cup of coffee en route. Automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, and rear cross path detection with auto brake added to the margin of safety.

The suspension can be a little harsh and range could be better, but the Ariya is an absolute work of art that happens to be easy to use. Base models start at a very reasonable $43,190, but our Platinum+ e-4ORCE with the larger battery pack, AWD and Nappa leather interior came to a lofty $62,770. Competitors include the Ford Mustang Mach-E, Kia EV6 GT, Cadillac LYRIQ, and upcoming Chevy Blazer EV.

NUTS & BOLTS

Five-passenger, AWD Crossover
- **Powertrain**: Li-Ion batteries/motors
- **Output**: 389hp/442 lb.-ft.
- **Suspension f/r**: Ind/Ind
- **Wheels f/r**: 19"/19" alloy
- **Brakes f/r**: regen disc/disc
- **Driving range**: 267 miles
- **0-60 mph**: 4.8 seconds
- **Recharge (10-80%)**: 40m
- **Economy (comb)**: 90 mpg-e
- **Assembly:** Tochigi, Japan
- **Base/as-tested price:** $43,190/62,770

Temp talk

Q: Your answer to C.W. about A/C in a hot car is, like her solution, only part right. When a car is parked all day in the sun, the air inside can easily reach 120 degrees. You need to get that air out quick, replaced with the cooler outside air. The best way is to open doors on both sides for just a minute or two and let the air change, before getting in and adopting your solutions, which will then work best on all the hot objects inside over time.

F.S., Oak Park, Illinois

A: My answer was limited to the couple's dispute. But, yeah, opening the car doors has been SOP since the 1950s. And I also didn't mention using a sunshade behind the windshield (remove before driving). Anybody who has seared an impression of a hot steering wheel on their palms about knows this one. How about parking in the shade? Valet parking? Chill.

■■■

Q: The flooding in the news brings up a question. How do electric vehicles fare going through puddles or high water? Do they short out?

B.K., Riverwoods, Illinois

A: Electric vehicles (EVs) are just as safe to drive through standing water as normal internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. Simply drive slowly and through water less than 4 inches deep, not because there could be an electrical problem but as a driving safety issue.

■■■

Q: I received a safety recall letter from Volkswagen in February stating that the driver's side air bag inflator on my 2015 VW Beetle "may explode due to propellent degradation occurring after long-term exposure to high absolute humidity, high temperatures, and high temperature cycling. An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death." They said they would send another letter as soon as the recall work can be completed and once parts supply permits. A repair is still not available. We bought the car new in Florida and it checks all the hot, high humidity boxes.

S.D., Nokomis, Florida

A: Replacement air bags remain as rare as rocking horse poop. But as they become available, they are shipped to the "big smile" states along the south and sea. Don't be shy about pestering your car dealer and you may go to the top of the list when the parts arrive.

■■■

Q: I have a 2018 Subaru Forester with just over 24,000 miles. While the maintenance manual says brake fluid and spark plugs are due for replacing based on time/mileage (30/30 for brake fluid, 60/60 for spark plugs), when I recently got a regular oil change at the Subaru dealership, the service adviser said the 30,000-mile mark (not the 30-month time mark) will be the time for such replacements. Does that sound correct? With my amount of driving, 30,000 miles might be another couple years. Also, what's a fair cost for spark plug replacement? I've seen anywhere from $200 to $500 or more.

K.B., Colorado Springs, Colorado

A: In my experience, spark plugs can last up to 100,000 miles, but follow the carmaker's guidelines. As for brake fluid replacement, it is time to do the job. Brake fluid is something that is affected more by time than mileage and you are closing in on 30,000 miles. The spark plugs are around $200 retail at a dealership, but the labor charges may vary geographically. The prices you have seen may be close, but I would call around to get quotes from independent repair shops and compare them to the dealership.

DREAMSTIME

Opening the car doors to let hot air out first has been standard operating procedure since the 1950s.

MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide *and* Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Life & Style

‘Barbie’ takes the box office crown; ‘Oppenheimer’ soars in historic weekend

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

" Barbenheimer " didn't just work – it spun box office gold. The social media-fueled fusion of Greta Gerwig's " Barbie " and Christopher Nolan's " Oppenheimer " brought moviegoers back to the theaters in record numbers this weekend, vastly outperforming projections and giving a glimmer of hope to the lagging exhibition business, amid the sobering backdrop of strikes.

Warner Bros.' "Barbie" claimed the top spot with a massive $155 million in ticket sales from North American theaters from 4,243 locations, surpassing "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" (as well as every Marvel movie this year) as the biggest opening of the year and breaking the first weekend record for a film directed by a woman. Universal's "Oppenheimer" also soared past expectations, taking in $80.5 million from 3,610 theaters in the U.S. and Canada, marking Nolan's biggest non-Batman debut and one of the best-ever starts for an R-rated biographical drama.

It's also the first time that one movie opened to more than $100 million and another movie opened to more than $80 million in the same weekend. When all is settled, it will likely turn out to be the fourth biggest box office weekend of all time with over $300 million industrywide. And all this in a marketplace that increasingly curved towards intellectual property-driven winner takes all.

The "Barbenheimer" phenomenon may have started out as good-natured competition between two aesthetic opposites, but, as many hoped, both movies benefitted in the end. Internationally, "Barbie" earned $182 million from 69 territories, fueling a $337 million global weekend. "Oppenheimer" did $93.7 million from 78 territories, ranking above "Barbie" in India, for a $174.2 million global total.

The only real casualty was "Mission: Impossible: Dead Reckoning Part I," which despite strong reviews and a healthy opening weekend fell 64% in weekend two. Overshadowed by the "Barbenheimer" glow as well as the blow of losing its IMAX screens to "Oppenheimer," the Tom Cruise vehicle added $19.5 million, bringing its domestic total to $118.8 million.

"Barbenheimer" is not merely counterprogramming either. But while a certain section of enthusiastic moviegoers overlapped, in aggregate the audiences were distinct.

Women drove the historic "Barbie" opening, making up 65% of the audience, according to PostTrak, and 40% of ticket buyers were under the age of 25 for the PG-13 rated movie.

"It's just a joyous time in the world. This is history in so many ways," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros.' president of domestic distribution. "I think this marketing campaign is one for the ages that people will be talking about forever."

"Oppenheimer" audiences meanwhile were 62% male and 63% over the age of 25, with a somewhat surprising 32% that were between the ages of 18 and 24.

Both "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" scored well with critics with 90% and 94% on Rotten Tomatoes, respectively, and audiences who gave both films an A CinemaScore. And social media has been awash with reactions and "takes" all weekend – good, bad, problematic and everywhere in between – the kind of organic, event cinema, watercooler debate that no marketing budget can buy.

"The 'Barbenheimer' thing was a real boost for both movies," Goldstein said. "It is a crowning achievement for all of us."

"Oppenheimer" had the vast majority (80%) of premium large format screens at its disposal. Some 25 theaters in North America boasted IMAX 70mm screenings (Nolan's preferred format), most of which were completely sold out all weekend—accounting for 2% of the total gross. Theaters even scrambled to add more to accommodate the demand including 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. screenings, which also sold out.

"Nolan's films are truly cinematic events," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic distribution.

IMAX showings alone made up 26% of the domestic gross (or $21.1 million) from only 411 screens and 20% of the global gross, and "Oppenheimer" will have at least a three-week run on those high-demand screens.

"This is a phenomenon beyond compare," said Rich Gelfond, the CEO of IMAX, in a statement. "Around the world, we've seen sellouts at 4:00 a.m. shows and people travelling hours across borders to see 'Oppenheimer' in IMAX 70mm."

This is the comeback weekend Hollywood has been dreaming of since the pandemic. There have been big openings and successes – "Spider-Man: No Way Home," "Top Gun: Maverick," "Avatar: The Way of Water" among them, but the fact that two movies are succeeding at the same time is notable.

"It was a truly historic weekend and continues the positive box office momentum of 2023," said Michael O'Leary, President & CEO of the National Association of Theatre Owners. "People recognized that something special was happening and they wanted to be a part of it."

WARNER BROS PICTURES/UNIVERSAL PICTURES VIA AP
This combination of images shows promotional art for "Barbie," left, and "Oppenheimer."

Teen son battles insecurity exacerbated by absent father

DEAR ABBY: My teenage son has a difficult relationship with his dad. They talk roughly once a week, but his dad hasn’t exercised visitation rights in nearly four years. He’s retired, very well off and has the time and resources to utilize spending time with our son; he simply chooses not to.

My son has some very understandable negative feelings about this. He’s in counseling and is now recognizing he has the power and responsibility to set boundaries for his own well-being. However, he struggles with deep insecurities. Despite having other male role models (grandpa, coaches, neighbors) who model positive behavior, share time, give advice and support him, he struggles to trust that he is deserving of it.

I regularly point out the wonderful male influences in his life and provide resources for him to spend enjoying activities with them. This helps, but it doesn’t seem to overcome my son’s deep sense of rejection and insecurities in peer-to-peer male relationships.

Boundaries are necessary in life. Embracing the good in our lives is equally, if not more, important. How can I help my son recognize that both good and bad are included in “when people show you who they are, believe them”?

AWARE MOM IN COLORADO

DEAR MOM: Continue to reinforce how proud of your son you are and how much you love him. Explain to him as often as necessary that the treatment he is receiving from his father has nothing to do with him, and everything to do with what is lacking in his father.

Under the circumstances, your son’s reaction to the treatment he has been given is understandable. But the person who may be in a better position to get through to him is his therapist.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My best friend of 35 years and I had a falling out about a year ago. I would call it an unfortunate misunderstanding, and as a result, we are no longer friends. Having said that, I wish nothing but the best for her.

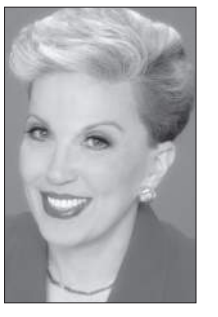
Many years ago, when I was sick with cancer, she gifted me a painting she created. She’s a talented artist, and I know she spent many hours working on it. I recently moved and I can’t bring myself to display the artwork because it is now a painful reminder that our friendship is over.

I have thought about returning it to her with a brief note, but I don’t know if that would be in bad taste. I certainly don’t want to create any hurt feelings. However, I’m wondering if she might want her painting back because she put so much effort into it. Your opinion, please?

REMINDED IN IOWA

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR REMINDED: Write your former friend an email explaining that you have moved (if she doesn’t already know) and will no longer be able to display her painting. Ask if she would like to have it back in light of the fact that she devoted so much time to creating it. If she wants it, send it to her. If she doesn’t, sell it, donate it or stick it in a closet.

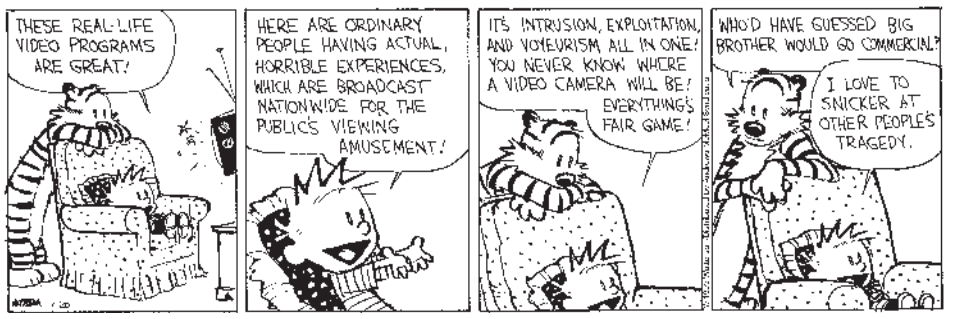
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THESE REAL-LIFE VIDEO PROGRAMS ARE GREAT!
HERE ARE ORDINARY PEOPLE HAVING ACTUAL, HORRIBLE EXPERIENCES, WHICH ARE BROADCAST NATIONWIDE FOR THE PUBLIC'S VIEWING AMUSEMENT!
IT'S INTRUSION, EXPLOITATION, AND VOYEURISM ALL IN ONE! YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE A VIDEO CAMERA WILL BE! EVERYTHING'S FAIR GAME!
WHO'D HAVE GUESSED BIG BROTHER WOULD GO COMMERCIAL?
I LOVE TO SNICKER AT OTHER PEOPLE'S TRAGEDY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DOES ME NOT COMING IN REALLY AFFECT YOUR BOTTOM LINE THAT MUCH?
YES. YES, IT DOES.
OH.
I MEAN, THE PASTRY SALES ALONE...
WELL THEN, SET ME UP, PASTRYKEEP!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

EXCUSE ME, CAN I BRING YOUR CHECK NOW?
ARE YOU TRYING TO GET RID OF US TO GIVE OUR TABLE TO SOME BIG TIPPER?
THAT'S SILLY. BY THE WAY, YOU KNOW CHEWING FAST BUILDS BULGING JAW MUSCLES THAT GIRLS DIG.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

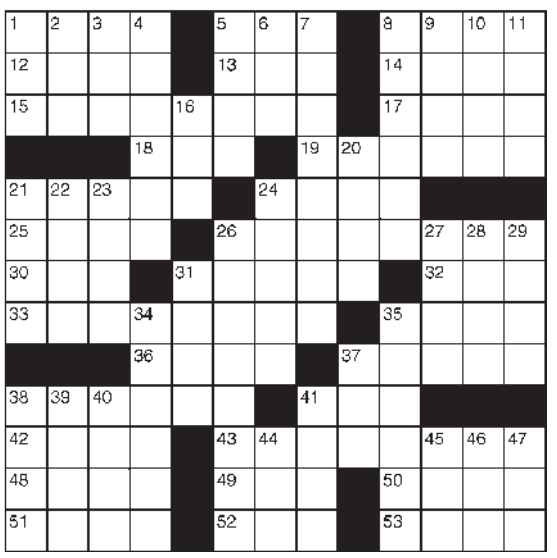
ACROSS
1 Mosque leader
5 Yucatan "Bravo!"
8 Job-safety org.
12 Boy, in Barcelona
13 Irish actor Stephen
14 Piece of work
15 Cordelia's dad
17 Genie's home
18 Japanese veggie
19 Govt. securities
21 Fish organs
24 Avoid
25 Exploits
26 Slickers and galoshes
30 Mode lead-in
31 Poet W.H.
32 Former Delta rival
33 1991 De Niro thriller
35 Halt
36 Flat floater
37 Bank structure
38 Outback auto-maker
41 Bit of butter
42 Mellows
43 12 months ago
48 Sledder's cry
49 Ton fractions (Abbr.)
50 Gambling city
51 Swift jets
52 Even so
53 Distort

DOWN
1 Squid squirt
2 Roman 1002
3 Raggedy doll
4 Mag-nates
5 Sand-wich treat
6 Actress Salonga
7 More coarse
8 Tea variety
9 Lovers' quarrel
10 Actor Cronyn
11 Nile snakes
16 Mormon church, for short
20 Ex-senator Sam
21 Avocado dip, for short
22 "La — Bonita"
23 Act of faith?
24 Nasser's successor
26 In a contrite way
27 Words to a back-stabber
28 Military no-show
29 En-grossed
31 Miles away
34 Deletes
35 Nymph pursuers
37 Cistern
38 Tools with teeth
39 Cries of aversion
40 Borscht base
41 "Hey!"
44 Rush-more face
45 "A mouse!"
46 Chemical suffix
47 Squabble

Solution time: 22 mins.

H	I	P	■	S	C	A	H	S	■	F	O	B
E	C	O	■	C	O	S	E	C	■	A	D	O
T	U	L	L	I	O	U	S	E	■	R	E	D
■	■	■	C	E	L	■	C	N	T	C	R	S
D	F	F	A	M	F	■	T	F	S	H	■	■
A	S	A	■	F	R	R	■	S	P	I	K	F
B	A	L	D	■	S	U	M	■	S	K	I	D
S	U	S	A	N	■	G	I	G	■	E	T	E
■	■	E	D	O	M	■	L	O	O	S	E	N
E	T	H	A	N	E	■	I	P	O	■	■	■
L	O	O	■	F	A	I	I	H	H	I	L	L
M	A	P	■	A	R	T	I	E	■	V	I	A
O	D	E	■	T	A	T	A	R	■	Y	U	M

Yesterday's answer 7-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: James Lafferty, 38; D.B. Woodside, 54; Matt LeBlanc, 56; Illeana Douglas, 62.

Happy Birthday: Refuse to let your emotions take over this year, leading you down a path that can cost you financially, physically or legally. Leave nothing to chance by overseeing every move you want to make. Precision and detail will play roles in your success, so don't scrimp, and make continuity part of your plan. An offer is only worthwhile if it's in your best interest. Choose wisely. Your numbers are 3, 15, 22, 26, 34, 41, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Embrace life, focus on accomplishment and stop fretting over what you cannot change. Use your intelligence to guide you and your strength and courage to help you follow through. Take on any challenge you encounter with enthusiasm and the will to win. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Look for an alternative when faced with negativity, and you'll accomplish your objective. Create opportunities instead of expecting them to manifest out of thin air. Don't give a platform to anyone creating division options. Take charge, keep the peace and defuse discord. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Anger and upset will lead to restrictions. Look for the bright side, evoke positive affirmations to anyone trying to bring you down. Make decisions based on your findings, not hearsay or what someone else is peddling for their advantage. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Participate in something you feel passionate about, and you will make a difference. Self-improvement will help you add to your assets and decrease your liabilities. Think outside the box, talk to experts and make goal-oriented changes. Do the work yourself. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Clarify information before agreeing to participate. Someone will leave out off-putting details to deter you from walking away. Ask challenging questions and raise issues of concern. Use your intelligence, and don't be afraid to decline. Protect your rights and reputation. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Go beyond what others are willing to do, and you'll set an example. Raise the bar and set the standard, and you will make a difference. Not everyone will like the changes you implement, but those who do will be worth your time and effort. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Pay attention to what the experts say, ask questions and accept any help offered. The connections you make will encourage you to participate in something that makes a difference. You'll benefit more if you offer your time and skills, not cash. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Step outside your comfort zone and tour what's available. Make a move because it suits your needs, not because someone else is prompting you to participate. Take aggressive action to improve your living arrangements and lifestyle. Don't offer empty promises. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Communication and consistency rule. Be specific regarding beliefs and requests. Say no to anyone trying to manipulate or confuse you with unproven theories or fake information. Demonstrate professionalism using actions and words. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Push forward with a positive attitude and your eye on any opportunity that comes your way. A change that has the potential to benefit you financially, physically or emotionally will ease stress and stimulate your imagination. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Be aware of what others do and say. Don't get involved in a situation that is emotionally draining. Limit your expenses, and don't spend on unnecessary alterations. Put your energy into nurturing what you have. Make your relationships priorities. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Designate what you can afford to what you want to achieve. Map out a path that helps fulfill the lifestyle you want to live. Changing how you handle or earn your keep looks promising if you market your skills accordingly. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are flexible, helpful and compelling. You are sensitive and proud.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8		6	2		7	3	
7	6	3	5		8	2		
	2		1		3		8	
2	5	6			1	3		
8						9		
	9	7			6			2
	1				5	8		4
				8	4	5	9	1
			9	1				

Difficulty: ★★ 7/25

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	1	8	2	9	6	7	5	4
6	4	9	7	5	8	1	2	3
5	2	7	1	4	3	8	6	9
2	7	5	8	1	9	3	4	6
9	6	4	5	3	7	2	8	1
1	8	3	6	2	4	9	7	5
8	9	6	3	7	5	4	1	2
4	5	1	9	8	2	6	3	7
7	3	2	4	6	1	5	9	8

Difficulty: ★ 7/24

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GLOBAL BREAKFAST FOODS — Solution: 9 letters

B	D	S	E	K	A	C	N	A	P	D	A	L	A	S
M	A	U	A	H	S	A	K	R	Ⓐ	Ⓣ	Ⓘ	Ⓟ	S	C
T	U	G	M	P	C	O	M	E	L	E	T	A	I	H
N	C	S	U	P	P	H	R	P	L	E	U	A	A	I
A	A	R	H	E	L	B	A	A	E	S	C	V	K	L
S	Y	T	O	R	T	I	L	L	A	A	O	I	I	A
S	E	E	G	A	O	T	N	G	L	C	M	E	R	Q
I	N	A	L	N	G	O	E	G	A	A	E	E	P	U
O	N	F	R	O	I	S	M	D	S	G	H	N	A	I
R	E	O	L	B	M	D	O	S	N	A	E	B	P	L
C	C	I	E	P	T	A	D	O	R	A	N	G	E	E
A	S	E	S	E	E	H	C	U	L	A	T	K	E	S
I	F	O	T	A	M	O	T	A	P	E	P	P	E	R
E	G	D	I	R	R	O	P	S	U	M	M	U	H	N
S	H	A	K	S	H	U	K	A	S	G	R	I	T	S

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Acai, Arepa, Avocado, Baguette, Beans, Beef, Cayenne, Challah, Cheese, Chilaquiles, Congee, Corn, Croissant, Dumplings, Flatbread, Grits, Guacamole, Hummus, Kasha, Latkes, Mushroom, Omelet, Orange, Pancakes, Paprika, Peameal, Pears, Pepper, Pita, Porridge, Pudding, Rice, Salad, Sausages, Shakshuka, Silog, Syrups, Tomato, Tortilla

Yesterday's Answer: Tin Metal

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 73, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2387)

Gunnar Henderson homers as Orioles edge Rays, 5-3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Gunnar Henderson and Ryan O'Hearn homered as the AL East-leading Baltimore Orioles beat the Tampa Bay Rays 5-3 on Sunday to take three of four in a weekend series.

The Orioles, who started July 6 1/2 games behind Tampa Bay, have a two-game lead over the Rays after winning for the 12th time in 15 games.

"We just played four really good games against a really good team," Orioles manager Brandon Hyde said. "Really proud of all of our guys. We did a lot things well this series. Hopefully we can keep it rolling."

Reliever Mike Baumann (7-0) walked two over 2 2/3 hitless innings and Félix Bautista gave up ninth-inning singles to Manuel Margot and Yandy Díaz before getting to his 28th save as four Baltimore pitchers combined on a three-hitter. Baltimore pitchers walked six and hit two batters.

Bautista ended it by striking out Wander Franco with runners on first and third.

"For some of the guys that don't have playoff experience like myself, it felt like a playoff game," Henderson said. "Really getting a sense for what it feels like. It's going to help us down the road."

Díaz homered for the Rays, who are an AL-worse 4-14 in July. This the first time Tampa Bay has lost a home series to the Orioles since June 2017.

O'Hearn put the Orioles up 4-3 on a 331-foot opposite-field homer down the left-field line off Colin Poche (7-3) in the sixth. He had a tiebreaking pinch-hit ninth-inning RBI single in the Orioles' 6-5 win on Saturday.

Baltimore took a 5-3 lead on Anthony Santander's RBI single during the seventh.

Díaz tied it at 3 with the Rays' first hit off a wild Tyler Wells, a two-run homer following a leadoff walk to Christian Bethancourt in the fifth. Wells was replaced by Baumann after retiring the next batter, Franco.

AP

Baltimore Orioles' Gunnar Henderson, right, celebrates with teammate Adam Frazier, left, after hitting a two-run home run against the Tampa Bay Rays during the second inning of a baseball game Sunday, July 23, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

ANGELS 7, PIRATES 5

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 36th homer in the two-way superstar's final home game before the trade deadline, and the Angels wrapped up a strong homestand.

Ohtani is eligible for free agency this winter and could be on the move ahead of the Aug. 1 trade deadline. But general manager Perry Minasian has said the Angels (51-49) are highly unlikely to deal Ohtani if they remain in playoff contention.

Tyler Anderson (5-2) yielded eight hits while pitching into the seventh inning for the Angels. Carlos Estévez worked the ninth for his 23rd save.

Bryan Reynolds homered for the Pirates, who have lost seven of nine out of the break. Mitch Keller (9-6) got the loss.

RANGERS 8, DODGERS 4

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Jonah Heim and Leody Taveras each hit a two-run double, and the Rangers overcame Max Muncy's first-inning grand slam.

Heim cut LA's lead to 4-2 in the bottom of the first before RBI singles from Marcus Semien, Nathaniel Lowe and Josh Jung put Texas in front in the second.

Missing All-Star sluggers Corey Seager (sprained right thumb) and Adolis García (sore right hand), the Rangers avoided a three-game sweep in a matchup of division leaders.

Texas left-hander Martín Pérez (8-3) allowed six hits in six innings. Dodgers rookie Emmet Sheehan (3-1) permitted eight runs and eight hits in 3 2/3 innings.

YANKEES 8, ROYALS 5

NEW YORK (AP)—Anthony Rizzo hit his first home run since May 20 and went 4 for 4 as the Yankees completed their third series sweep of the season.

Gleyber Torres' two-run homer sparked New York's four-run first inning against Jordan Lyles (1-12). Torres extended his hitting streak to a career-high 13 games but exited in the seventh because of left hip tightness.

Luis Severino (2-4) won for the first time in four starts since June 24.

It was Rizzo's 15th career four-hit game and first since Aug. 4, 2019.

Salvador Perez, Michael Massey, Freddy Fermin and Kyle Isbel homered for Kansas City in its fifth straight loss.

RED SOX 6, METS 1

BOSTON (AP)—Rafael Devers homered, Adam Duvall drove in two runs and Boston beat New York to take two of three in their weekend series.

Boston opened a four-run third inning with seven straight hits, chasing an ineffective Carlos Carrasco (3-4). Connor Wong had three hits for the Red Sox, who finished with 15.

The victory kept Boston (53-47) tied with the rival Yankees for last place in the rugged AL East. Both sit two games out of a playoff spot.

Boston used seven pitchers, with Chris Murphy (1-0) tossing 3 2/3 innings in relief of opener Brennan Bernardino for his first major league win.

BRAVES 4, BREWERS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Atlanta star Ozzie Albies hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning, ending Milwaukee's run of bullpen dominance.

Albies' 407-foot shot to left-center on a first-pitch sinker from Elvis Peguero (1-3) ended a string of 28 2/3 consecutive scoreless innings by Brewers relievers.

Atlanta slugger Austin Riley went 0 for 4 to end his streak of five straight games with a homer, which matched a Braves record.

Daysbel Hernández (1-0) pitched a scoreless seventh to earn the win in his big league debut after getting called up from Triple-A Gwinnett earlier in the day. Raisel Iglesias struck out the side in the ninth for his 18th save.

BLUE JAYS 4, MARINERS 3

SEATTLE (AP)—Pinch-hitter Santiago Espinal singled home the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning, and Toronto closer Jordan Romano escaped a ninth-inning jam.

Seattle put runners on second and third with one out in the ninth, but Romano struck out Julio Rodríguez on a 2-2 slider and retired Eugenio Suárez on a flyout for his 27th save.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Brandon Belt each homered for the second straight game, helping the Blue Jays rebound from blowing late leads in one-run losses Friday and Saturday. Tim Mayza (2-1) got the win.

Mike Ford hit a two-run shot for the Mariners. Bryan Woo (1-3) was charged with the loss.

PHILLIES 8, GUARDIANS 5, 10 INNINGS

CLEVELAND (AP)—Bryce Harper drove in the go-ahead run with a 10th-inning single and flashed more solid defense in his second career start at first base, leading Philadelphia to the victory.

Phillies closer Craig Kimbrel (6-1) blew his first save in 17 chances this season when David Fry hit a solo homer with two outs in the ninth.

Kyle Schwarber began the 10th as the automatic runner at second base. Trea Turner drew a walk before Harper singled up the middle off Tim Herrin (1-1). J.T. Realmuto hit a sacrifice fly and Alec Bohm had a two-run single that made it 8-4.

Cleveland threatened to come all the way back in the bottom half. Steven Kwan's single off Jeff Hoffman scored a run, and a walk to Tyler Freeman loaded the bases with no outs. Yunior Marte replaced Hoffman and got out of the jam for his second save.

NATIONALS 6, GIANTS 1

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lane Thomas matched a Nationals record with four stolen bases, and Washington recorded its first series sweep in nearly two years.

Riley Adams homered and MacKenzie Gore (6-7) threw five shutout innings for Washington, which completed its first sweep since taking two games from Toronto in August 2021. It was the Nationals' first three-game series sweep since June 2021 against Pittsburgh.

Joc Pederson homered for San Francisco, which dropped its fifth consecutive game. Scott Alexander (6-1) got the loss.

REDS 7, DIAMONDBACKS 3

CINCINNATI (AP)—Elly De La Cruz hit his first career leadoff homer and Nick Senzel connected for a two-run shot, helping the Reds finish the three-game sweep.

Christian Encarnacion-Strand had two hits and two RBIs as Cincinnati earned its fifth straight victory overall. It was the Reds' first sweep of the Diamondbacks since July 6-8, 2007, at Great American Ball Park.

Cincinnati (55-46) moved within a half-game of NL Central-leading Milwaukee. The Reds open a three-game set at the Brewers on Monday night.

Derek Law (4-4) pitched a scoreless inning for the win. Lucas Sims got two outs for his second save.

Corbin Carroll hit his 21st homer for the Diamondbacks, and Ketel Marte went 2 for 2 with three walks. Tyler Gilbert (0-1) got the loss.

CUBS 7, CARDINALS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Cody Bellinger homered and drove in three runs for the Cubs, and Jameson Taillon pitched into the sixth inning.

Dansby Swanson had two hits and Yan Gomes drove in two runs as Chicago closed out a 6-4 homestand. The Cubs won the last three games of their four-game set against the Cardinals.

Taillon (4-6) was charged with one run and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Nolan Arenado had three hits for the disappointing Cardinals, who could be one of baseball's most active sellers ahead of the Aug. 1 trade deadline. Jordan Montgomery (6-8) allowed seven runs, five earned, and six hits in six innings.

MARLINS 3, ROCKIES 2, 10 INNINGS

MIAMI (AP)—Luis Arraez singled home the winning run with the bases loaded in the 10th inning, and the Marlins ended an eight-game losing streak.

With the Rockies playing five infielders, Arraez hit a line drive to an empty right field off Pierce Johnson (1-5). Arraez went 3 for 4, raising his major league-leading batting average to .379.

Huascar Brazoban (4-2) got the win for Miami, which earned its first victory since the All-Star break.

Randal Grichuk and Brenton Doyle homered for Colorado.

TWINS 5, WHITE SOX 4, 12 INNINGS

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Ryan Jeffers hit a two-out RBI single in the 12th inning to cap a late rally by the Twins that secured a series sweep over the White Sox.

Jesse Scholtens (1-3) loaded the bases with nobody out before enticing Christian Vázquez to hit a 2-0 fastball into a short-stop-to-home-to-first double play. That left a runner on third for Jeffers, who lifted the Twins (53-48) to a three-game lead on Cleveland in the AL Central for their largest margin in more than five weeks.

Emilio Pagán (5-1) pitched a perfect 12th for the victory, stranding the automatic runner at third in his latest solid appearance following a rough 1 1/2 seasons to start his Twins career.

ASTROS 3, ATHLETICS 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Mauricio Dubón homered with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting Houston to the victory.

Yainer Diaz connected for his 11th homer for the Astros, who have won four of five and remain three games back of the AL West-leading Rangers. Hector Neris (6-2) got the win, and Bryan Abreu earned his third save.

Jeremy Pena drew a one-out walk off Chad Smith (1-2) but was caught trying to steal second. Dubón then went deep for his fifth homer this season.

JJ Bleday homered and scored twice for the last-place A's.

TIGERS 3, PADRES 1

DETROIT (AP)—Spencer Torkelson and Andy Ibañez homered, and the Tigers avoided a weekend sweep.

Alex Faedo (2-4), who entered with a 6.98 ERA, pitched six shutout innings for Detroit. The right-hander allowed one hit and walked four.

Beau Brieske and Jason Foley each worked an inning before Alex Lange pitched a rainy ninth for his 17th save. With runners on second and third, Lange retired Gary Sánchez on a fly ball to center for the final out.

San Diego right-hander Joe Musgrove (9-3) lost for the first time since May 20, a span of 10 starts. He permitted three runs and seven hits in six innings.

Curry touts 'Underrated' mindset in new docu on Davidson years

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Oh yes, Stephen Curry always heard the noise, the constant scrutiny about his size and stature and how he looked years younger than most everybody else coming out of college.

He decided to embrace it, to make it his mantra: Underrated. And now one of the NBA's biggest stars is sharing the story of his basketball beginnings and how being doubted eventually ended up fueling his pursuit to become one of the greatest players ever for the Golden State Warriors. He still carries that chip when he takes the court today.

"That underrated kind of mindset and being undersized and all that was a badge of honor at a certain point and you kind of flip it on the head," Curry said this week ahead of Friday's release of his Apple TV+ documentary, "Stephen Curry: Underrated."

"That's where the faith of, 'OK if I apply myself I can be as good as the next guy even though I don't look the part.'"

He led Davidson College's improbable run to the NCAA Tournament Elite Eight in 2008.

A year later when Curry went head-to-head with Patty Mills in a second-round NIT game as a junior at Davidson and lost at Saint Mary's College, little did the basketball-crazed Bay Area realize the dynamic point guard was simply providing a preview of what he had in store at the next level right here in Northern California.

AP

This image released by Apple TV+ shows Stephen Curry in a scene from the documentary "Stephen Curry: Underrated.

Curry believed he could be a star. He was driven by the chatter everywhere he went that he was too small and might not make it in the NBA — he'd already earned "The Baby-Faced Assassin" nickname years earlier as a schoolboy in Toronto.

"I definitely knew, I definitely heard it," he said. "I fought it for a while, but then you finally embrace it and then you turn it into kind of an unlock of, 'OK, this is my challenge, this is my reality,' but what can I do to kind of overcome the challenges of trying to be successful at this craft where in theory it might require you to look a certain way or have a certain physical attribute or whatever the case was.

"It unlocked for me a work ethic in developing my skill set that has carried me through my entire career."

The national scoring leader in his final college season, Curry finished that showdown against Mills with 26 points, nine rebounds and five assists on March 23, 2009, in Moraga. All these years later he plays across the bay from the suburb in the East Bay hills.

Now a two-time MVP, NBA Finals MVP last year and four-time NBA champion, Curry's latest big project will focus on his time before turning pro.

"I feel like it's a great moment of reflection. We talk a little bit about the NBA accomplishments, but it all is through the lens of what helped me develop that underrated mindset while I was at Davidson and why I still talk about it and still refer to it even now," he said. "It's always a part of my DNA because that's how I truly learned how to approach the game and find my own identity in this world."

In May of last year, Curry completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology at Davidson and received his diploma. He still cherishes everything he learned from Davidson coach Bob McKillop, who typically comes to see Curry play about once a season.

Reflecting on his college years and even hearing others recall their memories of those special seasons has meant a lot to the 35-year-old Curry, the league's all-time 3-point leader who has emerged as one of the biggest faces in professional sports.

Curry hopes that his story could motivate others who have been overlooked in pursuing whatever their passion might be.

"It was always the question of 'Why now?'" Curry said of making the film. "It was having the opportunity to inspire people from all different walks, not even just a basketball or a sports documentary but something that can be applicable to life and any walk of life and people of various backgrounds."

As Spurs get ready for Wembanyama, new practice home is taking shape

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—RC Buford has spent nearly a decade plotting this. He's been all over the world, visiting 200 places, seeing what works for other teams. Ideas kept coming, not just from the basketball landscape, but from skiing and soccer and eSports and cycling and even Formula One. Hour after hour, day after day, he became more consumed by the idea and more immersed into how to make it reality.

His task is almost done.

The San Antonio Spurs—just in time for No. 1 overall draft pick Victor Wembanyama's rookie season—are about to get a new practice home, one that might be among the most advanced in the world.

It's called The Rock at La Cantera, which will host the Spurs' soon-to-be-ready new facility as part of what will be a $500 million complex by the time all the building at the site is completed. It's not just a practice gym with a big locker room and some toys; it's going to be part of what the team envisions as a "global center for excellence in human and athletic performance" — not to mention a massive commitment to the city of San Antonio.

"We're not trying to build this to be the best in the NBA," said Buford, the Spurs' CEO and part of all five of the franchise's championship runs. "We're going to build this for our needs and to have the best environment we can to help develop the Spurs' culture. It's not about being better or worse than anybody."

It's a natural pivot for Buford; he was the architect of Spurs' teams, and now he's basically an architect of the Spurs' next building. There is no detail that's overlooked; the practice court area in the new facility has basically the same exact dimensions and layout as the team's current one — even the height, just over 26 feet, is the same, to try and mimic the same acoustics for when coach Gregg Popovich barks out things during workouts — and there's even a reason why the new pizza oven near the team dining area is set up where it is.

Popovich has yet to be inside the new complex, which is still very much a construction zone but will be ready for training camp in a little more than two months. He gave Buford two mandates for the new facility: take care of the people, and protect the culture. And Spurs players, from the minute they park their cars inside the underground garage, will get reminders of the culture.

"We really tried to have this idea and this concept of a sense of arrival," said Phil Cullen, the senior director of basketball operations and organizational development for the Spurs — and the project manager for the facility. "So the players ascend up the stairs, they'll start seeing the sight lines on the court and then they'll see the championship banners. And foundationally, what this space is built on, is the Pound the Rock quote."

It is a Spurs credo, the quote from Danish social reformer Jacob Riis: "Look at a stone cutter hammering away at his rock, perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred-and-first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not the last blow that did it, but all that had gone before."

It also provides a happy coincidence: It took the team that was getting the site ready for construction about four months to grind through enough rock for parts of the building's foundation, moving tons and tons of stone an inch or two at a time.

Steps were taken to protect the environment and lessen demand on resources; there's a water recapturing system, solar panels on the roof, windows even angled the right way to protect against glare and keep the building cooler. It'll be the largest mass timber constructed building in Texas, the Spurs said.

"The Holt family made the direct mandate that we had to develop this to have an impact for our community," Buford said, speaking of the Spurs' ownership. "It could not just be the best practice facility in the world. We had to develop it so the community could interact with it."

The Spurs outgrew their current practice home—37,000 square feet, with an outdoor Olympic-sized pool in the back so Tim Duncan could swim laps—long ago. There's at least 90,000 square feet of space for basketball operations in the new home, with more locker room space, bigger meeting rooms, a much larger team video area and more. (Still unclear: If Popovich will have a wine closet as he does in the current facility.)

The original plan called for expanding the current facility. That plan didn't last long.

"It became clear that the cost of making what we need to happen here was really making this cost effective to build someplace else," Buford said as he gave a tour of the site, wearing a hard hat that bears his name.

There will be a couple of large viewing windows in what will be called the Spurs Club over the practice court. There'll be bar in a long reception area behind those windows. Buford and Cullen get just as excited when they look out the windows, away from the court, and point to what is now just piles of dirt and rocks. In time, there'll be a park for the community to enjoy, a splash pad, a restaurant, a big outdoor screen where people can come watch movies or games. There's already a huge dog park, and the complex sits on a trail that rings basically the entire city — about 130 miles in all.

"You think about opportunities to engage in family nights," Cullen said. "The idea and the concept was that families could come here, have an experience that they did not have to pay a dollar for. If you want to come and just have your kids have a good time, that's what this is about."

Again, every detail seems to be thought out. The hydrotherapy pools are 8 feet deep to allow even the tallest players— Wembanyama is 7 feet, 3 1/2 inches—to be fully immersed in the water. There's enough room on site for everything from basic athletic training needs to medical imagery. There are rooms designed with mental health in mind. It'll have enough storage to make the Spurs' equipment managers the envy of the league.

They are building a palace, just in time for Wembanyama's rookie season and the Spurs returning to the NBA spotlight after a four-year rebuild. It is also good luck that all the stars seem to be aligning at once.

"It's very fortuitous, and it's also incredibly emotional and comes with a great deal of responsibility," Buford said.

Some Spurs employees say the project is part of Buford's legacy. He shoots down that talk immediately.

"This is not for me. This is for our team," Buford said. "This is for our community."

Vingegaard wins Tour de France for 2nd straight year

AP

Tour de France winner Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, lifts his bicycle after the twenty-first stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 115 kilometers (71.5 miles) with start in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines and finish on the Champs-Elysees avenue in Paris, France, Sunday, July 23, 2023.

PARIS (AP)—Danish rider Jonas Vingegaard won the Tour de France for a second straight year as cycling's most storied race finished Sunday on the famed Champs-Élysées.

With a huge lead built up over main rival Tadej Pogačar, the 2020 and 2021 winner, Vingegaard knew the victory was effectively his again before the largely ceremonial stage at the end of the 110th edition of the Tour.

The 26-year-old Vingegaard drank champagne with his Jumbo-Visma teammates as they lined up together and posed for photos on the way to Paris.

"It's been a long journey, yet it went by so fast," Vingegaard said. "Day after day, it was a super hard race with a super nice fight between me and Tadej. I've enjoyed every day. I hope to come back next year and see if I can take a third win."

It had been a three-week slog over 3,405 kilometers (2,116 miles) with eight mountain stages across five mountain ranges. Vingegaard seized control of the race over two stages in the Alps.

Little had separated the two rivals until Vingegaard finished a time trial 1 minute, 38 seconds ahead of Pogačar on Tuesday, then followed up the next day by finishing the toughest mountain stage of the race almost 6 minutes ahead of his exhausted rival.

"I'm dead," Pogačar said.

The Slovenian rider responded by winning the penultimate stage on Saturday, but Vingegaard still had an insurmountable lead of 7 minutes, 29 seconds going into the final stage – a mostly ceremonial stage which is contested at the end by the sprinters.

"We have to be careful not to do anything stupid," Vingegaard warned Saturday, "but yeah, it's amazing to take my second victory in the Tour de France."

Vingegaard kept that lead and was able to celebrate early Sunday as organizers decided to take the times one lap before the finish when it started raining on the cobblestones of the Champs-Élysées. The decision invited the sprinters to fight for the stage victory – the only remaining uncertainty.

Belgian cyclist Jordi Meeus prevailed in a photo finish between four riders on the line, just ahead of Jasper Philipsen, Dylan Groenewegen and Mads Pedersen.

"It was my first Tour. It was a super nice experience already so far, and to take the win today is an indescribable feeling," said Meeus, who clocked a top speed of 68.8 kph (42.8 mph) on the last kilometer.

Pogačar, who attacked after just one lap of eight altogether on the Champs-Élysées, was wearing the white jersey as the best young rider for the 75th day – extending a career Tour record. The 24-year-old Slovenian rider has won the best young rider classification every year since 2020.

GAVIOLA

From page 20

was uphill.

"The hardest part was before we reached Suicide Cliff because the winds were also strong. There were also a lot of veteran cyclists that participated in the race so it was very challenging," he said in Filipino.

Gaviola, who dedicated his victory to his parents, managed to shake free from said veterans Buco and Velasco after the Saipan sign toward the Suicide Cliff.

"I just tried to break away and when I saw Buco wasn't following I just quickened my pace and maintained my lead until the end," he added.

Gaviola also made a shoutout to Saipan Bike Pro for helping him with his ride on the lead up to the 3rd Annual Race for a Cause Bike Race.

Roland Gacayan, meanwhile, topped the mountain bike division after crossing the finish line in 52:11. Mike Aparte and Hernando Cristobal were a distant second and third with times of 55:42 and 56:01, respectively.

The 38-year-old Townhouse Furniture staff said like Gaviola, he had a hard time negotiating the route as it was indeed very wet and slippery.

"In fact, there were a number of bikes that slipped and overshot their marks as the road was very dangerous," he said in Filipino.

The La Union, Philippines native said he joined the peloton of road bike cyclists to take advantage of drafting and that was the secret of his success in the 2023 Bike for a Cause.

He said last weekend's race was good preparation for the upcoming second stage of the Hell of Marianas series.

Coordinator Willy Barbo said a total of 50 bikers took part in this year's Race for a Cause Bike Race. He thanked everyone for contributing to a good cause, saying that part of the proceeds from the event will go to a diabetic patient undergoing dialysis three times a week at the Commonwealth Health Center. He added that about 25 elderly people in the Philippines will also get a grocery package from him.

Results of the age group in the road bike and mountain bike divisions of the 3rd Annual Race for a Cause Bike Race will be reported in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune.*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ren Ren Gaviola, middle, topped the road bike division of the 3rd Annual Race for a Cause Bike Race last Sunday in Marpi. He is joined in the photo by runner-up Joel Buco, left, and third place Arvin Velasco.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Roland Gacayan, left, topped the mountain bike division of the 3rd Annual Race for a Cause Bike Race last Sunday in Marpi. He is joined in the photo by runner-up Mike Aparte, middle, and third place Hernando Cristobal.

ATTAO

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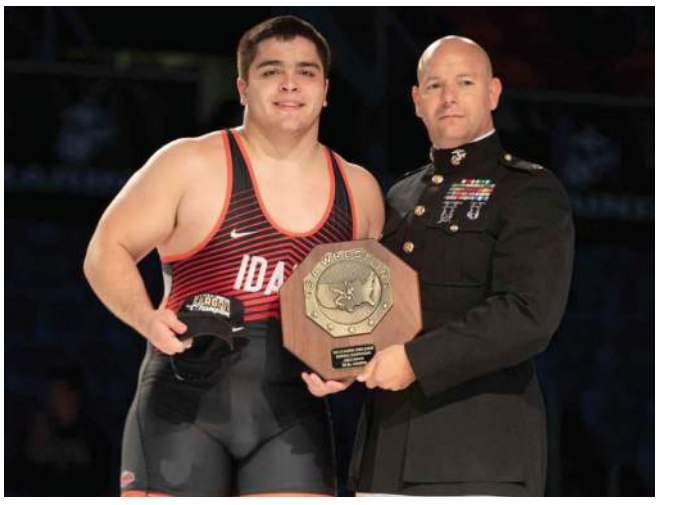
tion was all coaches, I believed in the plan they had for me and that's what prepared me best but training wise, nothing changed—it was the same thing as always. I will also continue to keep putting my trust in my coaches and believing in their process when leading up to the Worlds."

The new high school graduate from Boise, Idaho said he is now training until the U20 Wrestling World Championships due to take place this August.

Attao also completed a triple crown last year in junior wrestling after winning gold in the 2022 USMC Junior Greco-Roman Nationals. To complete a triple crown, a wrestler must win a folkstyle, freestyle, and Greco-Roman national championship in the same calendar year, according to USA Wrestling.

Aden's uncle, Joseph Attao said of his accomplishments, "This is such a big thing for him and we are so proud. Even with the second place finish yesterday he still kept his head up high and got ready for the next competition."

The son of Jesse Attao and Stacey Hammar, Aden last visited the CNMI in 2011 when he was 6 years old. He is the grandson of Jesus and Ramona Attao.



CONTRIBUTED OHOTO

Aden Attao, left, receives his championship plate after topping the Junior Greco-Roman division in the 2023 USA Wrestling Junior National Championships last Saturday in Fargo, North Dakota.

BOTIN

From page 20

fish that eventually ruled the 2023 edition of the Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

James Roberto thanked Lady Luck for he and his father finally winning the grand prize of the derby, which returned to its two-day format this year after COVID-19 and high gas prices shortened it to a one-day affair the past couple of years.

"This was pure luck and a blessing. We lost a big one yesterday (Saturday) and we tried to catch it back again but we couldn't. We went out there and we told ourselves we're looking for that big one. But nothing hit all day until 2:30pm almost 3pm. We got lucky on this and that was it," he told the media.

The 20-year fisherman, who has been accompanying his father on "reel dates" since he was about 5 years old, said perseverance paid off for the duo.

"Day 1 was challenging. After we lost the big one yesterday we were down and our spirits were shot. We were happy to get this one today," he said.

He also didn't divulge where they caught the 140.3-pounder last Sunday.

"Out in the ocean," was his secretive answer.

In an interview before *Botin Saba* came in, derby record-holder *Emmanuel* captain Michael James of Guam said he alway loves coming to Saipan to take part in the 39th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

While James didn't say what lure he used, he did say he caught it about 3-5 miles out of Smiling Cove Marina. He added that "I've been fishing in this tournament since 2022. I've been here for a long time. The Saipan derby is one of the most prestigious fishing derbies in this region. That's why we Guam people will go out of our way just to come here and participate. It's because the fishing association in this place is the best and it's outstanding. I just want to thank them for hosting and this is really a blessing," he said.

James was joined in the boat by longtime friend George Arriola and nephew Christian Camacho. Incidentally, Arriola was a deckhand on James' boat when they caught the Saipan International Fishing Tournament record 942-lb record in 2012.

In other unofficial results, *St. Jude* topped the yellowfin category with a 44.6-lb catch with *Happy Hooker* taking second place with its 33.8-pounder. Boats *Betty Ann* and *Chang* shared third place with identical 16-lb hauls.

In the wahoo category, *Lady V* took the prize with a whopping 42.9-lb fish, followed by *Here Fishee Fishee* and *Only Reelz* with their 31-lb and 26.3-lb wahoos, respectively.

Navigator then nipped *Reel Tight* in the mahi mahi category, 22.2 lbs to 21.7 lbs, with *Botin Saba's* 10.8-pounder taking third place.

In the skipjack category, *St. Jude* took the cake after hooking a 13.2-lb fish. *Ruby Fishing* came in second with her 12.9-pounder, while *San Juan* and *Fan Gote* finished tied in this place with similar 12.4-lb fish.

A total of 91 boats took part in the 39th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament with some 10 vessels coming from neighboring Guam.

Gunnar Henderson homers as Orioles edge Rays, 5-3.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Vingegaard wins Tour de France for 2nd straight year.

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Botin Saba takes grand prize

FLOYD MASGA

The father-and-son crew of Paul and James Roberto aboard the *Botin Saba* topped the 39th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament after snagging a 140.3-lbs billfish last Sunday.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Botin Saba is named after a type of tuna, but the father-and-son crew of Paul and James Roberto topped the grand prize of the invigorated 39th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament with the biggest billfish caught in the two-day derby.

The Robertos actually capped a rollercoaster ride of emotions for the Top 3 grand prize winners as *Islas Marianas* and *Emmanuel* earlier weighed in with what everyone thought was the tournament's grand prizewinning fish.

Islas Marianas took pole position with its 127.2-lb billfish caught on Day 1 last Saturday.

On Day 2 last Sunday, *Emmanuel* took first place 40 minutes before the 6pm cutoff for boats coming in with its 130.2-lb billfish, but as organizers were just about to write the grand prize check out to the *Emmanuel* crew, *Botin Saba* wheeled in their 140.3-lbs bill-

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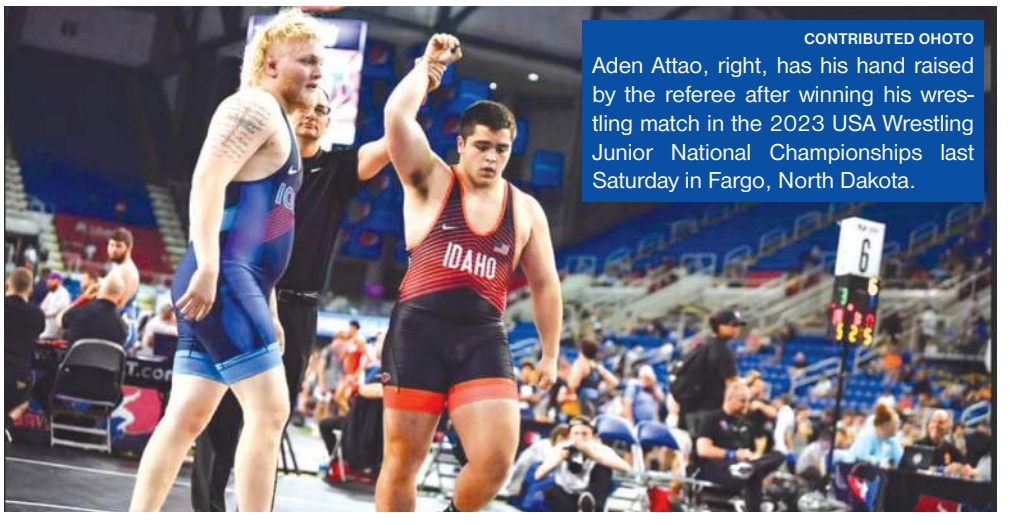
Attao bags medals in USA Wrestling Junior National Championships

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



CONTRIBUTED OHOTO

Aden Attao, right, has his hand raised by the referee after winning his wrestling match in the 2023 USA Wrestling Junior National Championships last Saturday in Fargo, North Dakota.

Aden Attao continues to make the CNMI proud as he wrestled his way to two medals in the 2023 USA Wrestling Junior National Championships last Saturday in Fargo, North Dakota.

After a dominant performance in the Junior Greco-Roman category of the 285-lb division, Attao won in the finals against Shilo Jones after just 17 seconds for an 8-0 total.

Attao made his way to the finals after he defeated Connor Aney in the semifinals, Richard Thomas in the quarterfinals, and Mustafa Woodi in the Round of 16.

The Oregon State University incoming freshman then settled for second place in the Junior Freestyle category after he fell to Koy Hopke in the finals after 5:32 of competition.

Prior to the National Championships, Attao also won one of Team USA's eight gold medals in the U20 Pan-American Championships in Santiago, Chile last July 6.

The 18-year-old said of his most recent win in the National Championships that "I just went out to put it on the line… and see what happens—no matter the outcome I just went to put it on the line and have fun."

As for his win in the international competition, he said "Honestly I loved the feeling of winning, not just because who doesn't love winning, but it was awesome knowing I won and represented my family and the island on my back."

He said of his preparation for his competitions, "My prepara-

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Gaviola, Gacayan gallop to win Race for a Cause

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Ren Ren Gaviola might as well be nicknamed Bike Bike after he won the road bike division of the 3rd Annual Race for a Cause Bike Race last Sunday in Marpi.

The 23-year-old Meals 4 U staff completed the long course route from the former Mariana Resort & Spa to Banzai Cliff, La Fiesta Mall, Bird Island, Suicide Cliff, and back in a time of 48:00.

He was followed by fellow speedsters Joel Buco and returning Arvin Velasco in 49:00 and 49:35, respectively.

Gaviola, who also ruled the road race last year, said this year's edition was made more perilous because of the rain that rendered the route slippery.

It also didn't help that the long course was made up of mostly hills, which meant that the majority of the race

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